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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers Council Opens in Jeddah

LD2808120989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0905 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Aug (SPA)—The proceedings of the 32d session of the Gulf Corporation Council [GCC] Foreign Ministers Ministerial Council began in the Conference Hall in Jeddah this morning under the chairmanship of Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the foreign minister of the State of Bahrain.

1st Two Sessions End

LD2808121689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1101 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Aug (SPA)—The Gulf Corporation Council [GCC] Ministerial Council concluded the proceedings of its first in-camera meeting held at the Conference Hall in Jeddah this afternoon. His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah pointed out that a number of topics on the agenda were examined at this meeting. His excellency told SPA: "The Ministerial Council heard the GCC general secretary's report, in which he underscored the achievements so far this year, in addition to the rest of the economic, social, and cultural developments and topics which the GCC has been facing."

The Ministerial Council is due to resume its proceedings later today.

Early this evening, their highnesses and excellencies ended the proceedings of their second session.

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and current chairman of the session, indicated that during this session they discussed reports from the economic and cultural committees and reviewed all reports received from other committees.

In a statement to SPA, he said that "the results of these reports and recommendations will be submitted to the next preparatory meeting for the GCC summit conference."

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah stated that during the next session, they will discuss the political points in the agenda of the council's 32d session.

Arab Summit Planned During Nonaligned Meeting

LD2808121789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1000 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Belgrade, Aug. 28 (KUNA)—A number of Arab leaders are currently conducting intensive consultations to hold an Arab summit on the sidelines of the nonaligned countries' summit conference due to open here next Monday, diplomatic sources said here Monday [28 August].

The sources, who asked to remain anonymous, indicated that participation of Arab leaders such as the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jordanian King Husayn, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and others will foster the idea of convening of such an Arab high-level meeting.

The Arab summit is to coordinate stances and discuss pressing Arab issues such as the Lebanese crisis.

The sources told KUNA that a number of meetings will be held at the Arab head of states level.

Emergency Arab Summit To Demand Syrian Pullout

JN2808133389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Our radio has learned from an authoritative source that Arab heads of state are expected to issue a frank and clear statement at an emergency summit demanding the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon if Syria does not remove the obstacles facing the higher Arab tripartite committee. The source referred to the existence of intensive Arab activity urging Syria to adopt a positive stand and provide sufficient guarantees to remove the obstacles facing the committee which has been entrusted with solving the Lebanese crisis.

The source explained that Damascus is saying that the Casablanca summit resolution only demanded Israeli withdrawal, not Syrian withdrawal, from Lebanon, and therefore the tripartite committee has violated the letter and spirit of the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon. This is what Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' tried to emphasize in Amman, the source added.

Thus, the source affirmed, the Arab states have no choice but to clearly and frankly ask Damascus to withdraw its forces from Lebanon on the basis of a resolution by an emergency Arab summit which might be called either by the king of Morocco in his capacity as chairman of the summit, or the tripartite committee itself.

It is worth mentioning here that following the Syrian foreign minister's talks in Amman, Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim referred to the lack of any identity of viewpoints between the Jordanian and Syrian sides on the Lebanese issue. Al-Qasim also affirmed that the tripartite committee's mission is too comprehensive to be confined to mediation. He affirmed that the committee was given full powers by the Casablanca summit to achieve the Arab solution to the crisis. Al-Qasim expressed the hope that Jordan will play its role in the next few days to help achieve a unified Arab stand to tackle the Lebanese problem.

Islamic Affairs

Muslim World League Urges Boycott of Bulgaria

JN2808163389 Al-Dammam Al-YAWM in Arabic 27 Aug 89 p 1

[By Muhammad Duki]

[Text] Mecca—Dr 'Abdallah Nasif, secretary general of the Muslim World League, has called for extending aid to the Turkish Government to help it shelter the Bulgarian Muslims who were expelled from Bulgaria by the communist authorities.

Dr Nasif, who chairs a fact-finding committee on the problem of Bulgarian Muslims, said the Turkish Government has exerted great efforts to shelter more than 300,000 refugees and needs additional help to continue its mission.

In a statement following his return from Turkey yesterday, Dr Nasif called for a commercial boycott of Bulgaria and for exerting appropriate pressures to force it to relinquish its oppression of the Islamic minority.

He said that interviews with the Bulgarian refugees indicated to the fact-finding committee—which is entrusted with this task by the Islamic Conference Organization—that malice dominated the Bulgarian officials' treatment of Muslims until the last moment of their departure from Bulgaria.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Reportedly Joins Unified Leadership

JN2808155189 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 27 Aug 89 p 16

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-SIYASAH—Yasir 'Arafat, president of Palestine and commander in chief of the revolution, has disclosed that the Palestinian [Islamic] resistance movement, Hamas, which leads a large part of the activities of the popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories on religious grounds, has agreed to join the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNL].

'Arafat disclosed this at a meeting few days ago with the members of the Palestine National Council in Jordan. He said that Hamas' joining of the UNL was associated with the movement's desire not to attend meetings of the six-way committee, which groups all resistance factions in the occupied territories. The Fatah representative at the meetings of the UNL will, therefore, deputize for Hamas, as was the case with the Islamic Jihad movement. [passage omitted]

PLO Spokesman Urges Deportation Intervention

JN2808194289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1802 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] An official PLO spokesman has stated: The Israeli occupation authorities have perpetrated a new crime against our people and their representatives. The Israeli High Court of Justice on 24 Aug 89 ruled for the deportation of more Palestinian militants. They are: Dr Taysir al-'Aruri, Dr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Natur, Majid al-Labadi, Yusuf 'Awdah Ma'ali, and Bilal al-Shakhshir. The Israeli occupation authorities will implement the ruling within 2 days.

Once again Israel's rulers register their flagrant defiance of international will, humanitarian charters, and UN and Security Council resolutions. What makes this new Israeli crime even uglier is that the Palestinians will be deported to Lebanese territories, which are experiencing increasing tragedies and dangers to the lives of people living there.

We hold Israel's rulers responsible for the threat to the lives of our strugglers, who are deported from their homeland by the force of the law of the jungle and Zionist barbarism. At the same time, we appeal to all honorable world forces that respect human rights, foremost of which is man's right to live in his homeland, to raise their voices against this crime of Israel's rulers, to continue their demands for a halt to deportations of the sons of our people, and to achieve the return of deportees. We also appeal to the United Nations and the Security Council to intervene to stop this crime and implement their related resolutions on Israel's repeated crimes.

World Condemnation Urged

JN2908081489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Aug 89 pp 1, 16

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], and Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee, have appealed to world public opinion, human rights organizations, and fraternal and friendly states to stop the deportations and expulsions to which the Palestinian Arab people are exposed.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y, Shaykh al-Sa'ih and Milhim affirmed that such inhuman acts will not frighten the Palestinian people, who know how to react to them via their triumphant intifadah [uprising].

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said the Israeli occupation authorities' deportation of five Palestinian strugglers merely because of their activity against injustice to the Palestinian people clearly proves that the occupation authorities do not want peace but want to continue their intransigence and determination to practice injustice and repression.

The speaker of the PNC called on the international community, particularly the United States, to expose these facts and prevent the Zionist enemy from insisting on its plans, which contravene the most fundamental human rights and all international laws and conventions. Shaykh al-Sa'ih added that the United States is in the best position to persuade Israel to turn away from its inhuman and immoral policies and practices.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that such inhuman acts cannot undermine the brave intifadah and disrupt its plan to achieve its just objectives.

Milhim warned against single and collective deportations saying they are a prelude to masssive deportations which the Zionist enemy intends to carry out.

Milhim appealed to world public opinion to halt the inhuman policies pursued by Israel's rulers headed by Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron.

Milhim appealed to fraternal and friendly states to go beyond condemnation and to retaliate by providing financial, political, and other types of support to the intifadah.

Transfer of UN Venue Urged if Visa Denied

JN2808183589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Arab League UN Representative Clovis Maqsud today said that the Arab countries will call for transferring the UN General Assembly meetings to Geneva if Washington refuses to grant 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States.

Restoration of Jordan-West Bank Ties Approved

JN2808123489 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] During the recent talks between King Husayn and 'Arafat, the PLO gave the green light for Jordan to restore its ties with West Bank residents, as if the disengagement had never taken place.

Our correspondent, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zahdah, says that reports leaking from Amman suggest that the [Jordanian-Palestinian] Joint Committee will revive the 5-year development plan and that this plan will be financed by the PLO's financial fund. The PLO also pledged to pay $10 million for the Jordanian budget—the amount spent by the Jordanian Government on employees in the West Bank.

Our correspondent has learned that in light of this, the Jordanian Government will resort to the system of paying employees monthly rather than considering them part of the permanent civil service staff.

Dissident Comments on Palestinian-Jordanian Ties

JN2808141089 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Aug 89 pp 1, 11

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah], commander in chief of the Corrective Movement of Fatah and the PLO, has said that the unionist relationship that has existed since time immemorial along the banks of the Jordan River signifying popular cohesion and inseparable organic bonds between the Palestinians west of the river and Jordanians to the east requires that political ties between their respective leaderships be correspondingly advanced and should reflect themselves in coordinated and unified efforts. The unionist relationship should make it possible for the two sides to adopt a common political strategy in their approach to the regional and international dimensions of the Palestinian question.

Abu-al-Za'im was commenting, in a statement to AL-QUDS, on the recent visit to Amman by a PLO delegation led by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and the talks between the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships.

The brother commander in chief said that, albeit belated, the visit fits in with the right framework that should at all times underlie serious Palestinian action and guide any fruitful and effective Palestinian moves on the various national, supra-national and international fronts.

Brother Abu-al-Za'im added: No one can deny established facts and day-to-day realities that illustrate the depth of the organic links that make the close connection between the Jordanian people and the Palestinian cause inevitable. Nor can anyone also deny the historic role of the Jordanian leadership vis-a-vis the sacred cause. Events have shown that the Palestinian cause cannot possibly score any gains outside the framework of a total organic coalition between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and leaderships. This makes it inevitable that dedicated and sincere activists on behalf of the Palestinian cause must return to Jordan for both sides to consolidate a firm, unshakable posture and a joint political program identifying basic principles and short- and long-term objectives.

The brother commander in chief went on to say: Our people have been fed hollow, unworkable slogans. Unless they are transformed into ongoing consultations and burgeoning coordination, the existing distinct relations between the Palestinians and Jordan will remain a meaningless slogan mouthed occasionally. It was for a combination of these reasons that the Corrective Movement has adhered to the letter and spirit of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of February 1985. The credibility of the movement's national and pan-Arab commitments has been borne out by events and developments as has been the validity of its program since its inception.

Abu-al-Za'im added: Every passing day furnishes fresh evidence that Israel is not about to yield anything under

the current Palestinian, Arab, and international circumstances. In our opinion, Israel will not make any concessions unless confronted with a united Palestinian front backed by a constant Arab strategy dedicated to the liberation of our people and our rights as well as the restitution of Arab rights in Palestine—peacefully or otherwise. Hence the insistence of the Corrective Movement on promoting the Palestinian national unity whereby the Palestinians regain their right to independent decisionmaking and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian action is upgraded to match the unionist ties between the Jordanians and Palestinians along both banks of the river. This is an indispensable foundation for mapping out a common Arab strategy to liberate Palestine and its people. It will be an honest translation of our faith in the distinguished relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and that Palestine is, after all, Arab territory, that the Palestinian people are an indivisible part of the Arab nation, and, consequently, that the Palestinian cause is the foremost and central Arab issue that holds the key to delivering the Arab present and building a secure future for the coming Arab generations.

It is our opinion that the first step down the road of serious action to free our people and regain our inalienable national rights in Palestine lies in reconstituting a coalition between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships and upgrading their joint program to the level of the special relationship prevailing east and west of the river.

U.S. Credibility on Palestine Issue 'Nonexistent'

JN2808203989 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1756 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, the United States is barricaded behind Shamir's so-called election plan. This biased stand is beyond any true or rational political explanation whatsoever. Shamir plan, full stop; Shamir plan only; Shamir plan is the solution—this is what the U.S. Administration has been reiterating while turning a blind eye to all facts and major changes produced by the intifadah [uprising]. There can be no settlement of the Middle East conflict without dealing with these facts and listening to their political plan, represented clearly by the Palestinian peace initiative—the initiative that also showed the easist way to deal with these facts.

Certainly, the United States can see the facts as they actually are. But, by virtue of its hostile policy toward the just causes of peoples, it always ignores facts, attempting to undermine them and, consequently, create opposite facts to serve its interests and aggressive policy. The United States deludes itself into thinking—especially when it comes to the Palestinian issue—that it can, despite the intifadah and its clear firm facts, continue the same process to achieve the same hostile goals. In other words, by talking about the U.S. Administration's total bias toward the Israeli occupation, we do not want to reflect the nature of the organic U.S.-Israeli alliance as much as we want to point at the nature of the U.S. policy, which refuses to listen to the voice of righteousness and justice and the rhythm of peoples' freedom; this contributes toward suppressing the just aspirations and ambitions of peoples who are struggling for their freedom and independence.

The United States will have to prove the opposite of this ugly fact about its foreign policy and approach to the issues of struggling peoples. Yes, the United States will have to prove the opposite of what it says and act, through moderate stances, to beautify its ugly face. In this context, it has to realize that its credibiliy concerning its allegations about eagerness to achieve peace and human rights has so far been in the pits; indeed, it is a propagandistic credibility, unfounded and nonexistent in reality.

The United States and its Israeli policeman will be the only losers in the region. Whether they listen to the voice of reason, the voice of concern and seriousness, the voice of genuine peace—the Palestinian voice—or continue to be barricaded behind the policy of crime and murder, our gigantic intifadah will continue unabated to achieve all its just goals of defeating occupation and wresting freedom and indepndence for our people and the land of our country—Palestine. We will emerge victorious.

Qaddumi Blames U.S. for Slow Pace of Dialogue

LD2508192389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1752 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Belgrade, Aug 25 (KUNA)—A senior PLO official has warned that foot-dragging on finding a settlement for the Palestinian question could pose serious threat to the whole mideast region and said the uprising will be enhanced through advanced techniques.

Head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi added in an interview here with KUNA that the U.S. was to blame for the slow pace of its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Qaddumi was interviewed here Thursday at the end of a three-day visit to Yugoslavia during which he conferred on the Palestinian question with top leaders of the country.

He charged that the American side in the U.S.-PLO dialogue in Tunis was focusing on sideline issues and skipping the nagging political questions.

The dialogue opened last December and the fourth round of which was held in Tunis earlier this month.

Qaddumi, who is in effect foreign minister of the Palestinian state, said the PLO diplomacy now is devoted to securing protection for Palestinians under the occupation in the face of a surge in Israeli brutalities against them.

The intifadah [uprising] in the occupied areas, he said, "will continue and be enhanced with advanced forms and means that would give it longevity until the homeland is freed and an independent Palestinian state established." He did not elaborate.

Qaddumi conceded that the Palestine Liberation Organization had instructed Palestinian leaders in the occupied area to halt contacts with the Israeli Government because they were more of a dialogue between a prisoner and his jailer."

The atmosphere of those contacts was "neither democratic nor free," for lack of equilibrium, the PLO official charged.

He suggested instead that Palestinian-Israeli dialogue take place outside the occupied areas and he dared Israelis to accept the proposal.

Previous such contacts under the occupation were used by Israel to gain time and deflate the intifadah by dragging Palestinians to marginal issues.

According to Qaddumi, Israel intended to use the contacts mainly to secure Palestinian approval for proposed elections in the occupied areas to elect Palestinians that would, years later, negotiate peace with Israel.

The election plan, put forth by Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been rebuffed by the PLO.

Qaddumi also suggested that a third party, other than the United States, take part in such Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

On the forthcoming non-aligned summit which he discussed with Yugoslav leaders, the PLO official said the movement's eight-member committee on Palestine would meet at summit level during the NAM [Non-aligned Movement] conference early next month.

He hoped the 9th non-aligned summit would produce greater support for the Palestinian peace overtures.

Saudi Paper Interviews Fatah's Salah Khalaf

PM2408154789 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 17 Aug 89 p 7

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qulaybi] In one of your statements you held the United States responsible for the failure of the Palestinian peace initiative and stressed that that failure would lead to extremist Palestinian inclinations. What do you mean by that?

[Khalaf] What I always say is exactly that the scale of opposition is increasing within the Palestinian revolution and among the Palestinian people as a result of the intransigent Israeli position and as a result of the unconcerned U.S. position as well. Everyone wonders now: For the sake of the cause we have offered all that has been required of us and the outcome has been an Israeli position which has not changed and a U.S. position which has not been replaced!

These negative positions prompt extremism, and I would not conceal from you that the Palestinian people now have doubts about the credibility and feasibility of the course which we are currently following. We will face these difficulties in the Palestinian arena and within the Palestinian political and military organization with a view to achieving even a minor step on the road to a settlement.

Most regrettably, the United States has so far failed to push the peace process forward. And instead of the earnest role we expected from Washington, the Zionist lobby, in cooperation with AIPAC [American-Israel Public Affairs Committee]—which has links with Congress—almost killed the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, but for President George Bush's and the U.S. Administration's intervention.

That dialogue—despite our dissatisfaction with its present form—was and still is subject to a conspiracy, since Israel wants to kill that modest, simple form.

[Al-Qulaybi] If the U.S. position does not develop and the Palestinian political initiative fails, would there be a possibility of the PLO fully reexamining its stances toward the United States and Israel?

[Khalaf] It is the means, not the objectives, which require reexamination. We made the Algiers decisions not for the sake of the United States or Israel. We made those decisions for the sake of our people, our Arab nation, and world public opinion. We are not an obstacle to peace, and this is now a fact known to everyone.

[Al-Qulaybi] What are the means which need to be reexamined?

[Khalaf] The question cannot be discussed through the media, but within the Palestinian leadership. So we cannot reveal our plans. What is intended by changing the means is that we do something on the ground that would make the United States understand that neglecting the Middle East problem, placing it on ice, or treating it as an ordinary problem cannot continue. This is what is intended by developing the means.

[Al-Qulaybi] There are fundamental differences between the PLO and Israeli views over how to conduct the elections in the occupied territories.

[Khalaf] Not only fundamental differences: There is a long-standing and long-term conflict. The conflict is continuing because Shamir's plan is not a peace plan but a plan aimed at perpetuating the Israeli occupation under the slogans of elections and democracy. They are mad if they think that we would accept imaginary peace plans as genuine plans. We can accept nothing other than the independent Palestinian state whose capital is Jerusalem, even if the problem continued for 1 or 2 centuries.

[Al-Qulaybi] But did you agree to elections under conditions?

[Khalaf] Yes, we agreed to elections provided that they are part of a comprehensive plan for a settlement—a plan whose start and finish are known. We accept elections through a comprehensive plan. This is in order not to appear to the world as if we are against elections. We are against elections which deliberately eliminate 4 million Palestinians outside [the occupied territories]. That is the vileness and maliciousness behind the issue of elections aimed against the unity of the cause and the unity of the Palestinian people's representation. We cannot bargain over these issues.

[Al-Qulaybi] Israel is opposed to the diaspora Palestinians' and the East Jerusalem Palestinians' participation in the elections.

[Khalaf] Not only opposed to that: It says that the problem is confined to the Palestinians inside [the occupied territories]. As for the Palestinians outside, it is the Arab states' responsibility. So by that Israel wants to divide the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people. And consequently, Israel wants to resolve the problem from inside, on the basis that they are the Arab minority like the Hungarian minority in Yugoslavia or Romania.

[Al-Qulaybi] Your meeting with U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Pellereau created a major uproar and was behind the Helms plan in U.S. Congress. So why all that uproar?

[Khalaf] We told the Americans if the United States is unable to shoulder a meeting with a Palestinian leader, how will it shoulder the responsibility for upholding the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Regrettably, there there was a conspiracy which the racist, Zionist organization AIPAC hatched in cooperation with the Israeli Embassy in Washington and the Israeli Mosad to buy the consciences of some U.S. senators like the agent Helms, in order to launch a campaign of defamation against the Palestinian leaderships and the PLO. In their campaign they focused on me and held me responsible for all terrorism in the world, including Black September, the Khartoum operation, the Munich operation, and the Red Brigades in Italy. Fortunately, that conspiracy failed. And to be fair and objective, the credit goes to U.S. President George Bush who played a major role in warning Congress against slipping into that dangerous game. It was the first time that a U.S. President has intervened with Congress. Former President Ronald Reagan did not intervene even once. In our view, President Bush's intervention with Congress in that case was positive, but the question is that we should not stop at that point. The important thing is for the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to produce something positive for the cause, the Palestinian people, and the region as a whole.

[Al-Qulaybi] In his interview with the LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Tarasov emphasized that the United States is not serious about settling the Palestinian problem. What is your comment?

[Khalaf] I met with Tarasov in Tunis recently. His opinion was that we be patient and follow up the problem pending the September meeting between Baker and Shevardnadze—a meeting to which they attach great importance. The Soviet Union sees that we must continue on the road of committed political dialogue, because the alternative is violence and war, and they do not support such alternatives.

[Al-Qulaybi] What was discussed between you and the U.S. ambassador in Tunis?

[Khalaf] We discussed the issue of the hour—specifically that of the elections in the occupied territories. This is because since Shamir announced the elections there have been no talks between any Palestinian and U.S. officials except on that question. And I believe that those elections were originally a U.S. idea. It is a conspiracy and a plot. And I emphasize that the election idea is a U.S. idea before it is Israeli.

[Al-Qulaybi] But it seems to be a smart plan aimed at playing for time and circumventing the intifadah [uprising]?

[Khalaf] It is a smart plan to those who do not know the fundamental matters in the Middle East. As for those who understand all the facts, they realize that this is idle talk and there is nothing new in it. It is an obsolete plan which the Camp David agreement contained in a better form. The Shamir plan is worse than the part concerning Palestinians in Camp David.

[Al-Qulaybi] That plan has given Israel a breathing space with Western public opinion.

[Khalaf] The Americans do not want to get into the details. They avoid talking about what comes after the Shamir plan or the elections. We said "yes" to elections, but how and where will they be conducted? Will those elections be part of a comprehensive plan?

To the contrary, Shamir's plan did not jeopardize our position, and the proof of this is that the Europeans states adopted our view and said that elections are a good idea for resolving the Middle East conflict. And we, as I said earlier, accept elections as part of a comprehensive plan, and in this context, we accept the Namibian example.

[Al-Qulaybi] There are now Soviet-Israeli contacts, and Tarasov met recently with Shamir's adviser.

[Khalaf] The Soviet Union wants to have contacts with the other party, Israel, so that it will be able to play a role in the international conference and in bringing closer the views of the parties to the conflict. But that does not mean the restoration of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv. This is because the Soviet Union still adheres to its position—namely that the restoration of relations must take place after Israel accepts the international conference or after it takes a genuine and serious step toward peace.

U.S. Memorandum Said To Show 'Hostile' Stance

PM2508121789 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 20 Aug 89 p 1

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Director of Fatah Foreign Relations Tells AL-MADINAH: Washington Threatens To Suspend Dialogue With PLO"]

[Text] 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee, its official in charge of foreign relations, and director general of the PLO International and Arab Department, said in an exclusive statement to AL-MADINAH that the Palestinian side in the dialogue with the United States had thoroughly studied the U.S. memorandum submitted by U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Pelletreau Jr, who is entrusted with the dialogue with the PLO, during the fourth official round of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in Tunis last Monday. The memorandum was referred to the PLO Executive Committee for consideration in order to confront the new challenge. He noted that the U.S. memorandum considers the elections in the occupied territories and the Shamir plan the starting point of the peace process in the region—which the PLO rejects as a whole and in detail. 'Abbas Zaki added that the recent U.S. position contained in the U.S. memorandum perpetuates the position hostile to the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, foremost among which is the right to self-determination and to establish the independent Palestinian state.

Concluding his statement, he emphasized that the decisions of the Fatah general congress are a success for the PLO, since they reflected full support for the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council in Algiers and for the political initiative which encountered support at both the Arab and international levels.

Khalid al-Hasan on Armed Struggle, Dialogue

JN2908111689 Baghdad INA in English 1032 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 29, INA—Mr. Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian Fatah Movement stressed that the Palestinian armed struggle would continue until ending Zionist occupation and establishing the independent Palestinian state.

Interviewed by the Iraqi AL-THAWRAH newspaper and published here today, Mr. al-Hasan said that all international laws and the UN Charter endorsed the Palestinian people's armed struggle in its capacity as a legal affair under occupation [as received].

On the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, the Palestinian offical mentioned that the dialogue was still far away from comprehensiveness and depth of discussion required by the Palestinian issue.

He said that the American side tabled its viewpoint at the recent round of meetings over principles of the progress of work towards the settlement and said that the Palestine Liberation Organization is studying a reply to that viewpoint.

Algeria

Political Organizations Seek Ratification

LD2808212689 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The political reforms promoted by the new Constitution have started to manifest themselves in reality, embodied in the first instance in the formation of organizations of a political nature. Among the organizations which have deposited their files for ratification by the Ministry of Interior and Environment are: the Democratic Social Party, the Socialist Vanguard Party, the Rally for Culture and Democracy, the National Party for Solidarity and Development, the National Front for Salvation. Requests for ratification are still being deposited with the ministry, where today the Algerian People's Party deposited its file.

President Bendjedid Receives Mauritanian Minister

LD2708142489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, received at the Presidency today Moustapha Ould Abderrahmane, the Mauritanian minister of planning and labor and the personal envoy of President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya of Mauritania. After his meeting with the president of the Republic, the Mauritanian envoy made the following statement to the national press:

[Begin Moustapha recording] He gave me the opportunity to express how happy I was to have been accorded an audience with His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. [sentence as heard] I also noticed that everything was said with wisdom and understanding, as were the positions adopted by Algeria on all issues. The discussion we had concerned regional issues, particularly those involving Mauritania and West Africa, and also the bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to bolster them. Thank God, these relations are already developed and advanced, and, God willing, they will prosper further. [end recording]

Benjedid Receives Tunisian Foreign Minister 27 Aug

LD2708112989 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Algiers, 27/8/89 (APS)—The Tunisian Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh special envoy of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali handed yesterday a message to President Chadli Bendjedid.

He said in a statement after his audience by the head of state that the message of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali concerns bilateral relations and the relaunch of Algerian-Tunisian joint commissions. He said that he tackled with President Bendjedid problems of mutual interest.

Egypt

Kuwaiti Amir Arrives on Official Visit 28 Aug

Met by Mubarak, 'Abd-al-Majid

LD2808144789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0926 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 28 (KUNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah arrived here Monday [28 August] on a three-day official visit, at the invitation of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

H.H. the amir was greeted upon arrival by President Mubarak, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, State Minister for Administrative Development 'Atif 'Ubayd and other ranking state officials.

Upon arrival, his highness the amir said his visit to Egypt is an expression of love and appreciation for the Egyptian people and its leadership. Kuwait highly appreciates Egypt's heroic defence of Arab rights and causes and its permanent readiness to help the Arab nation at times of need, his highness said.

His highness indicated that the visit provides an opportunity for meeting with President Husni Mubarak and his government officials for an exchange on how best to deepen bilateral relations between Kuwait and Egypt. It would also be a chance to get acquainted with the achievements realized by Egypt during the last years, his highness noted.

Kuwait shall never forget Egypt's paticipation in building modern Kuwait through its experts, doctors, engineers, teachers, technicians and workers, his highness said.

His highness confirmed that his visit to Egypt reflects all fraternal feelings towards Egypt, the Egyptian people and leadership.

Cairo Radio on Arrival Statement

NC2808142789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of Kuwait, announced on arriving in Cairo today that he has brought with him the love of Kuwait and its people for dear Egypt's people and leaders. He said: Egypt has a dear place in our hearts and we greatly appreciate its noble Arab character, its heroic defense of the rights of Arabs and all people, the sacrifices it has made over the years for the sake of its Arab brothers and their causes, and its constant readiness to extend assistance to them whenever necessary.

He declared that Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations are constantly growing stronger and noted that his visit to Egypt will give him the opportunity to meet with his brother,

President Husni Mubarak, and members of his government to discuss the best ways to promote cooperation between the two fraternal countries, as well as to see firsthand the achievements made by the big sister Egypt over the past few years. He added that these achievements are a source of pride to us all.

He said: We in Kuwait cannot forget that our country's progress and achievements are due to God's favor first and the Egyptian people's contribution and participation second. The fraternal Egyptian people generously supplied us with experts in all sphere to promote the pace of construction and development in Kuwait, their second homeland.

He added that his visit to Egypt is one of fraternity and amity in the fullest sense of the words. [passage omitted]

Meets Privately With Mubarak

NC2908074389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a private meeting with His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of Kuwait, at the presidential palace this morning.

Agriculture Minister To Attend Libyan Celebration

NC2908063689 Cairo MENA in English 0620 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—[Passage omitted] An Egyptian delegation led by Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture Dr Yusuf Wali, as representative of the president of the Republic, will leave for Libya next Thursday to attend the celebrations of September 1, AL-AHRAM said. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Nonaligned Summit Document

JN2608172489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Aug 89 pp 1, 20

[Text] In his speech before the Nonaligned Movement conference, President Husni Mubarak will raise a number of issues which Egypt believes are of prime importance. At the head of those issues come Third World debts, especially Africa's debts. In the speech which he will deliver on the first day of the conference in Belgrade on 4 September, the president will also touch on the situation in the Middle East, particularly the Palestine question and the Israeli attempts to upstage the constructive Palestinian initiative. The president will also deal with the stalemate in the Gulf.

In his speech, the president will review the situation in South Africa and the Pretoria regime's attempts to hamper the process of Namibian independence, in addition to a number of issues of interest to the Third World.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister—who will travel to Belgrade on 31 August to take part in the foreign ministers' meeting which will precede the summit conference—has stated that intensive diplomatic moves will be made in September. He said that President Husni Mubarak will also attend the UN General Assembly's session, which will be of particular significance because he will deliver Africa's speech and will have the opportunity to hold contacts on the highest level with the most prominent world leaders taking part in that session.

In statements to AL-AHRAM diplomatic correspondent Angie Rushdi, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid added that the most significant thing to be presented to this conference will be the important document on the future of the Nonaligned Movement which was prepared during the foreign ministers' conference in Cyprus in December 1988 and approved by the ministerial conference in Harare in May 1989.

He said: This document is particularly important because it calls for improving the Nonaligned Movement and its objectives and working method so that it can correspond to the spirit of the age and the international developments in our contemporary world, while at the same time preserving the traditional substance of the Movement's principles and goals.

He added: For example, we see that the document recommends giving greater attention to the economic questions that directly affect Third World countries—such as indebtedness, financing development projects, and encouraging cooperation among countries of the South. It also calls for taking greater interest in issues of common dimensions—such as human democratic rights, the environment, and scientific and technological progress.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid added: The document will recommend setting up three branches comprising the state chairing the Nonaligned Movement, the former chair, and the country that hosted the ministerial conference. The three members will assist the movement's chairman when urgent developments demand. The document will also deal with improving the movement's working methods by organizing meetings by ministers of economy and finance in the Movement's member states to consult over the issues of mutual concern. It will also call for increasing coordination among the member states as is the case with the successful coordination taking place in New York among the UN member states.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said he believes the Nonaligned Movement's summit conference will be a distinguished and important one, especially as it comes amid the current international circumstances and under the detente and cooperation between East and West and the success of many peace efforts in different areas.

He said: The conference will deal with a number of urgent issues. In addition to the issue of international peace and security, there are a number of issues that directly affect our Arab world—such as the Middle East question, the Palestine question, Lebanon, and the Iraqi-Iranian dispute. There are also the African issues which,

as far as Egypt is concerned, take an additional dimension after President Husni Mubarak assumed the chairmanship of the Organization of African Unity.

OAU Secretary General Arrives for Debt Symposium

NC2708185889 Cairo MENA in English
1845 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 27 (MENA)—Ide Oumarou, OAU secretary general, arrived here tonight on an official three-day visit to Egypt during which he is due to attend the international symposium on African debts.

The OAU organized the symposium in accordance with the last resolution adopted during the Addis Ababa African summit.

Ambassador Sami Thabit, Foreign Ministry chief of protocol, and Ambassador Ahmad Hajjaj, OAU assistant secretary general, welcomed Oumarou at the airport here.

Ghali Reads Mubarak's Address to Debt Seminar

NC2808112789 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0800 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized Egypt's constant desire to participate and coordinate efforts with its sister developing countries to promote the vital interests of the developing world and defend its just issues in the political, economic, and social domains.

In an address to the international symposium on African debts, which started today, President Mubarak expressed the hope that this symposium would embody the unified African will, constitute a starting point toward discovering new ideas for reaching a mutual agreement between the North and South regarding the debts problem, achieve a common objective for making progress, and consolidate peace and promote cooperation among the peoples.

The following is the text of President Mubarak's address which was read on his behalf by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs:

It is a great pleasure to sincerely welcome you here to Cairo, which in 1962 hosted the first meeting of developing countries to discuss the development problems. The Cairo Declaration was issued during this meeting, containing for the first time a unified stand of the South on international economic problems. This declaration became the nucleus for establishing the Group of 77, the biggest and strongest economic grouping of all the Third World countries.

Furthermore, the first Arab-African summit was held in Cairo in March 1977. It represents a prominent landmark on the road to promoting economic cooperation among the developing countries and establishing effective realistic foundations based on mutual benefit. Thus, Egypt is always eager to participate and coordinate with its sister developing countries to promote the vital interests of the developing world and defend its just issues in the political, economic, and social domains.

I have great hope that your meeting today will embody the unified African will, be a starting point in discovering new ideas for reaching a mutual agreement between the North and South regarding the debts problem, achieve a common objective for making progress, and consolidate peace and promote cooperation among peoples.

I wish you and your important symposium all success which certainly will be the fruit of your sincere intentions, strong determination, and noble objective. Peace be with you.

Mubarak Receives Mauritanian President's Message

NC2808130789 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0820 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. Ahmed Ould Khalifah Ould Jada [name as received], Mauritanian minister of mines and industry, handed the message to Mubarak during their meeting today.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Mauritanian ambassador to Cairo attended the meeting.

Foreign Trade Minister Postpones Syria Visit

NC2808124589 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1132 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa's trip to Syria on Wednesday has been postponed. Dr Mustafa is minister of economy and foreign trade.

The minister of economy will participate in negotiations with an IMF mission which will arrive in Egypt next week to define the points of disagreement between Egypt and the IMF and try to bridge the gap between the views of the two sides.

Trade, Industry Agreements With Kuwait Signed

NC2908104189 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0820 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian and Kuwaiti delegations held a round of talks here this morning while President Mubarak and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah were holding a private session.

The Egyptians attending the talks were Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa; Industry Minister Eng

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab; Culture Minister Faruq Husni; and Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, Egypt's ambassador to Kuwait.

The Kuwaitis attending the talks were Rashid al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Finance Minister Jasim al-Khurafi; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari, Kuwait's ambassador to Cairo. The talks were also attended by the director of the International Organization Department at the Finance Ministry; the director of the organization department at the Kuwaiti Fund for Development; and the assistant director of the loan department at the General Investment Authority.

During the talks, Egyptian Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa and Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim al-Khurafi signed a trade and customs agreement between Egypt and Kuwait. Egyptian Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab and Rashid al-Rashid, Kuwait minister of state for cabinet affairs, signed an agreement for financing a steel rolling project at the iron and steel company. Under the agreement, Kuwait will extend a 10-million Kuwaiti dinar loan to finance the project. The loan will be repaid in 15 years at 3.5 percent interest with a 4-year grace period.

EPLF Secretary General, Delegation Arrives

EA2508215889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Amharic 1630 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Summary] The secretary general of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF], Isayas Afeworki, arrived in Cairo on 22 August at the head of a high-powered delegation.

Sudanese Interior Minister Ends 1-Week Visit

NC2908084489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0647 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Sudanese Interior Minister Brigadier General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this morning after a week-long visit to Egypt. The Sudanese official held talks with Interior Minister Zaki Badr on bilateral cooperation in the security field. [passage omitted]

Prosecutor's Office Releases 31 Hulwan Detainees

NC2808175189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—The supreme state security prosecutor's office decided today to release 31 suspects who had been arrested and were being interrogated in connection with the recent events at the iron and steel complex in Hulwan.

The prosecutor's office will decide tomorrow whether to release 73 other suspects detained in connection with the same case. The prosecutor's office had ordered the detention of 104 suspects in connection with the incidents at the iron and steel complex after charging them with a number of offenses including unlawful assembly, damaging public installations, and obstructing work.

Libya

Tensions Over French Troops in Chad Noted

LD2808193389 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Paris, Hannibal [August] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Chad vigorously attacked the presence of the French troops on its soil. Chadian radio and TV in Ndjamena have condemned the conduct of the French military troops in Chad accusing Col. H. Boncci [name as received], commander of these troops, of being devoid of the spirit of responsibility showing disregard for Chadian laws.

The Chadian media organs have become unanimous that the behavior of French troops in Chad and the flying of French aircraft over Chadian towns and cities have harmed greatly Chadian interests. The French aircraft in flying over the Chadian towns have caused cracks and rifts in many houses there.

Meanwhile, a French parliamentary delegation has unexpectedly cancelled an official visit to Ndjamena following the worsening in the bilateral relations between France and Chad.

Mr. J.P. Bocheron, chairman of the Defence Committee of the National Assembly of France, scheduled to pay a visit to Chad heading a French delegation early this week, has said that the abrupt deterioration in the French-Chadian relations doesn't create the favourable conditions for a dialogue with Ndjamena. Additionally, the French Defence Ministry has declined to comment on the deterioration in the relations with Chad.

JANA's African affairs editor has commented on this remarking that the African patriotic feelings are on the increase to face up to the foreign presence in a number of African countries. Chad has considerably suffered from the consequences of the French colonialisation and its interferences in all wakes of life during the era of this colonialisation which has desecrated Chadian soil sowing the seeds of discord among its citizens and wreaking corruption there.

Additionally, the French colonialist spirit of imperialism still thinks that it is capable of putting in check the revolutionary aspirations of the African peoples. The primitive colonialist mind is nostalgic for an era that has passed constituting a colonialist phenomenon condemned by the civilized mind.

The editor adds that the arrogant and abrasive spirit of the French troops as a daily conduct in Chad is rejected now. This spirit reaffirms the reality of the mind of the colonialists, apart from reconfirming the disregard

shown by them for the feelings of Africans. To them, an African individual is a primitive being who has no right to express his opinion even though he lives in his own country.

The world at large has noticed the racist conduct that contavenes the spirit of tolerance when the French racists bulldozed a mosque on purpose in one of the French cities.

The editor concludes by pointing out that the hold by the colonialist forces on the resources of the African peoples has greatly harmed their economic, social and cultural structure. This has now been realized very clearly by all the African peoples especially those that have been suffering down to the present day from the aftermath of the despicable European colonialisation.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Jallud Inaugurate River Project

LD2608163889 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpt] This morning the brother leader of the revolution inaugurated the second stage of the great man-made river at the (Jabal al-Hasawnah) region. Amid a big popular celebration he unveiled a plaque marking the start of work on this stage, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution. It is an advanced stage along the road to the implementation of this great civil project at (al-Burtumah) region in the municipality of Sabha, was attended by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salim Ahmad Jallud. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Communist Leader Arrives 28 Aug

LD2808211189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Aug (JANA)—George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli tonight to take part in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the great al-Fatah revolution.

Morocco

King Hassan, Delegation Depart for Libya 28 Aug

LD2808205889 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Excerpts] One hour ago the ship of unity "Marrakesh" left the port of Tangier for Libya, carrying the leader of the renaissance of the new Maghreb, the president of the Arab Maghreb Union, His Majesty King Hassan II. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Hassan II is accompanied to Libya on board the ship "Marrakesh" by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, His Royal Highness Moulay Rachid, and his majesty's advisers Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Ben Suda. Among the ministers who are accompanying his majesty are Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui and Dr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

Government To Oversee Senegal's Interests

LD2608210489 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation issued a statement in which it announced that at the request of the Government of the Republic of Senegal his majesty's government has agreed to look after the interests of Senegal in Mauritania. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Iraq's Role in 'Defending' Arabs

EA2808130189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1012 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 28 August—[Revolution] Command Council chairman Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir in a statement prior to his departure to Iraq, Monday, stressed the necessity of coordination with the Iraqi Government with regard to the forthcoming Non-Alignment summit in Belgrade.

In statements to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Khartoum Al-Bashir said Iraq has been defending Arabs against those who "want to eliminate Arab existence, culture and civilisations." He said the Gulf war, the Lebanese problem and the south Sudan problem are examples of the hostility against Arab culture and civilisation.

Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir said the policies of the former regime of ex-Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi vis-a-vis Iraq were all but "wrong" in every aspect especially during the period of the war. Gen. al-Bashir said the former regime has misevaluated Sudan's relations with Arab countries. Al-Bashir has underlined the keenness of boosting relations with Iraq because of its nationalistic orientation and its endeavours to assist and back all Arab countries.

Previews Visit to Baghdad

JN2808095189 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 28, INA—General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council described his visit to Iraq as acquiring a big importance especially that it was coming on the eve of Non-alignment [as received] summit convention.

In a statement to INA's correspondent in Khartoum prior to his departure for Baghdad this morning he said it was necessary to coordinate with Iraq that is protecting the important Arab areas against all dangerous threatening the Arabs. [sentence as received]

The Sudanese president has said that the Arab homeland has become largely a target for obliterating its existence, culture and civilization.

He added the Iraq-Iran war was a clearer evidence on that in addition to Lebanese problem and the problem of southern Sudan.

General 'Umar al-Bashir stressed the Arab nation's capability of confronting her enemies and achieving the great victories. He also said that the Iraqi victory in the war, which was nearer to great miracles, was a confirmation of that capability.

He added that the conscious leadership of President Saddam Husayn and the sound planning for directing the war, enabled Iraq to achieve the great victory in one of the long wars. He also said that the Iraqi soldier would always remain an example of sacrifice and steadfastness for any military man.

The Sudanese president touched on stances of the Sudan's previous government towards Iraq during the period of the war and described them as wrong attitudes particularly in assessment of the Sudan's relations with the Arab countries.

He has affirmed the importance of working on consolidating the relationship with Iraq because its approach is completely pan-Arab and it works for supporting all the Arab countries.

Departs for Iraq 28 Aug

EA2808125589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 28th August—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir left here Monday morning on a day-long state visit to Iraq. Gen. 'Umar is accompanied by Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul, State Minister at the Ministry of Defence Major Gen. (Ret) 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan and Commerce Undersecretary 'Umar Muhammad 'Umar.

Ministerial Council Discusses Political Situation

EA2808115089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its session this morning under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister. During the meeting, the council heard a report from Staff Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad al-Hasan, chairman of the Political Committee, on the general political situation in the country. The council stressed the importance of negotiations with national personalities on national unity and people's participation.

The council also examined a report presented by Dr Ya'qub Abu-Shurah, minister of irrigation and water resources, on irrigation operations and their problems. The council stressed the need to strengthen irrigation schemes through the state with [word indistinct] foreign assistance.

The Council of Ministers also ratified the report of the minister of finance and economic planning on issuing new currency notes: 1 pound, 50 piasters, 25 piasters, 10 piasters, 5 piasters, and 1 piaster.

The council also ratified Sudan's annexation to the (?Preferential Trade Area] member countries of east and southern Africa in accordance with the report from the foreign minister on the agreement, which includes several areas of economic cooperation aimed at achieving an African economic pact.

Khartoum To Host 2d Round of Ethiopian Talks

AB2708203489 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Sudan and Ethiopia are joining hands to resolve their respective problems. Indeed, Khartoum has just announced that a second phase of the talks between Ethiopians and Eritreans will take place in Sudan, but no date has been made known so far. In a statement to the only authorized Sudanese daily, AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAH, Colonel Khalifah, a member of the Sudanese military junta, stated that Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam and Issayas Apeworki, the general secretary of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, called for the holding of the second round of talks in Sudan with that country attending as an observer. The first phase of the talks between the Ethiopian Government and the Eritrean rebels is expected to begin on 7 September in Atlanta, Georgia, United States. Col Khalifah added that the two sides were confident of the success of the talks, thanks to the new Sudanese Government.

Since the 30 June coup d'etat in Khartoum, Col Khalifah visited Ethiopia at least twice. During his recent visit, he led a Sudanese Government delegation to the 19 and 20 August meeting in Addis Ababa with the southern Sudanese movement, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army of Colonel John Garang. Sudan supports the Eritrean movements fighting against the Addis Ababa government, while Ethiopia supports the rebels of southern Sudan led by Col Garang.

[Paris AFP in French at 1540 GMT on 27 August adds: "General Dominic Kassiano, a member of the Sudanese junta, denied Thursday [24 August] that Ethiopia and Sudan intended to 'barter' the Eritrean and southern Sudanese problems."]

Bahrain

Omani Envoy Conveys Message to Amir

JN2608162589 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Manama, Aug 25 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received a verbal message from Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman dealing with preparations for the 10th GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] summit scheduled in Muscat next December.

The message was delivered by the secretary general of the Omani Legislative Court Muhammad Ibn-'Ali Nasir al-'Alawi during a meeting with H.H. the amir here today.

Present were Bahraini Crown Prince and Acting Prime Minister Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibi-Khalifah Al Khalifah and State Minister for Legal Affairs Dr. Husayn al-Baharan.

The Omani envoy left Manama later for Kuwait ending a short visit to Bahrain.

Fire Breaks Out in Oil Storage Tank 26 Aug

JN2608141089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 26 Aug (WAKH)—The Interior Ministry of the State of Bahrain today announced that a fire broke out in a storage tank at the Bahrain Petroleum Corporation at 0930 today.

In its statement, the Interior Ministry said that the fire broke out when the maintenance teams of the corporation were performing repairs and maintenance work on a valve outside the tanker. The statement added that a leak of gasoline oil occurred during the repairs and that this caused the fire to break out.

Responsible authorities ruled out sabotage as a cause of the fire, despite the fact that official agencies are still investigating the incident.

The fire caused slight and superficial wounds to three persons among the corporation's workers and firefighters. The wounded have been treated at the corporation's facilities.

The Bahraini firefighting teams fought the fire, prevented it from expanding, and extinguished it. Moreover, the corporation's operations continued uninterrupted when the fire was raging. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Al-'Ussaymi Cited on GCC Ministerial Meeting

LD2808100289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 28 (KUNA)—State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Ussaymi said Monday that the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] foreign ministers will discuss over two days of meetings efforts of the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon along with other political and economic questions.

Al-'Ussaymi, speaking to KUNA before departure to Jeddah to attend meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Ministerial Council scheduled to open later today, noted that the session gains added importance because it precedes the non-aligned summit conference slated for September 4-7 in Belgrade. He said the council's agenda includes Mideast problem, Palestinian uprising and the serious situation in Lebanon.

The state minister voiced Kuwait's hopes, as well as all Arabs, that the tripartite committee's conciliation efforts on Lebanon would continue to save that country from its ordeal. "We are absolutely convinced that all, whether within or outside Lebanon, support the committee's efforts and goodwill march and realize that there is no other solution but the Arab one to the crisis," Al-'Ussaymi elaborated.

The Kuwaiti senior diplomat said that the Ministerial Council is to discuss a number of economic questions, which he did not disclose, along with results of specialized committees' meetings.

The GCC states, as members of NAM [Nonaligned Movement], are concerned with strengthening the movement's role on the international level particularly when the world is currently witnessing Soviet-American rapprochement.

The movement, in the light of such a development, should work to cope with the new international situation, Al-'Ussaymi underlined.

Asked whether the GCC countries had specific proposals on work papers in this regard to be presented to the NAM summit, the state minister said that all work papers had been presented at the NAM ministerial committee, known as the NAM's Coordination Bureau, meeting in Zimbabwe last May. The papers were debated in detail in the presence of delegations from the GCC states.

Al-'Ussaymi, who is accompanied by a senior level delegation, was seen off by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin along with other ministry officials.

PDRY

Further on 'Arafat's 26 Aug Visit to Aden

EA2708165589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] The Yemeni-Palestinian talks began this evening at the Secretariat of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. The Yemeni side was led by brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, while the Palestinian side was led by brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

At the beginning of the talks, brother Al-'Attas delivered a speech in which he warmly welcomed brother Yasir 'Arafat on his first visit to Democratic Yemen since the proclamation of the state of Palestine. He congratulated him on the renewal of confidence granted to him during the recent congress of the PLO, Fatah, by reelecting him chairman of the movement. He praised the important decisions taken by the congress which will strengthen the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people as the largest Palestinian organization. He said: We shall always be with you in your struggle, and our cooperation and relations will grow stronger, as will our support for the Palestinian people's struggle.

He expressed the hope that the decisions of the Arab summits, including those of the Casablanca extraordinary summit, would be implemented as a pan-Arab duty in support of the Palestinian people's struggle and their brave intifadah [uprising]. He stressed that the wise leadership of the state of Palestine and its revolution, as well as the cohesiveness and steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people inside and outside the occupied Arab territories, would achieve the goals for which they had been struggling and for which they continue to struggle.

Brother Al-'Attas expressed regret over the continuing tragedy of the fraternal Lebanese people and stressed the need for the success of Arab efforts to settle the Lebanese crisis.

The militant brother Yasir 'Arafat expressed appreciation for the militant stand of Democratic Yemen and the pride of the Palestinian revolution in the relations which link the Yemeni and Palestinian peoples, relations baptized in blood throughout the Palestinian struggle. He said: You have honored Palestine and you were the first state to recognize the Palestinian state by accrediting the PLO representative as ambassador of Palestine and as doyen of the diplomatic corps in Aden.

There were cordial talks on Yemeni-Arab relations and the latest developments in the Palestinian arena within the framework of the continuing escalation of the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah and the concomitant political and diplomatic moves being made by the state of Palestine. There was also a review of the latest developments in the Lebanese arena and of the achievements of the tripartite committee set up by the Casablanca summit to tackle the Lebanese crisis. There was also a review of the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and of the two states' policies with regard to them.

Brother 'Arafat also briefed the Yemeni side on the outcome of the Palestinian-American talks and on the outcome of the congress of the Palestine liberation movement, Fatah. The two sides also discussed a number of other issues of common interest.

The Yemeni side was represented at the talks by brothers 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister; Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, member of the Central Committee, minister of industry, trade and supply, and head of the escort of honor accompanying brother Yasir 'Arafat; and Ja'far al-Salih, director of the office of the chairman of the Presidium.

The Palestinian side was represented by brothers Hani al-Hasan and 'Abbas Zaki, members of the Central Committee of the Palestine liberation movement, Fatah, and brother Abu-Shanab, the charge d'affaires of the state of Palestine in Aden.

Earlier, there was a closed door meeting between brothers Al-'Attas and 'Arafat before the talks began.

'Comprehensive Reform' To Include Armed Forces

EA2708174689 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Brigadier Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Politburo and minister of defense, has affirmed that the Armed Forces are to be part of the comprehensive reform program which our party and our people are preparing to embark on. He said that there were major tasks ahead for the military and political leadership and all the combatants in the Armed Forces within the framework of comprehensive reform. This was said in a press interview that he gave to the military newspaper, AL-RAYAH, which was published in today's issue.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives PLO's Yasir 'Arafat 28 Aug

LD2808212389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2102 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Aug (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, this evening held a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting took place at the Guest Palace in al-Hamra'.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and head of the national guard; His

Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general; and His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir. It was also attended by Hani al-Hasan, member of the [Fatah] Central Committee and political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat; and by Subhi Abu-Kirsh, member of the Central Committee and representative of the movement in the Kingdom.

Defense Minister Cited on Kingdom's Arms Program

LD2708222189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 27 Aug (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, has pointed out that the Kingdom's arms program is a positive and an acceptable one; it is not an improvised one, nor is it a piling up of weaponry and hardware. In a news conference held following the graduation of the second group of university graduate officers held at the cultural center of the air defense forces in Jeddah, his highness added: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not an investment for foreign factories; it is an investment for its national interest." His highness continued: "That is why all my visits, which I have undertaken to friendly countries following the directives of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, have been successful, as those countries have espoused the important place of the Kingdom and its great Muslim people." Replying to a question on the situation in Lebanon His Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz said, "The Kingdom's stance is unambiguous and clear, i.e. a great love for that country and a prayer to Almighty God that peace and stability would prevail upon Lebanon, the people and the land." His highness added: "The efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques, as well as those of his brother members of the higher Arab committee on Lebanon, are known to everyone." He stressed that the Kingdom's stances toward Lebanon are declared and clear. [passage omitted]

His highness stressed that the Kingdom does not have a labor problem when it imports modern and very highly sophisticated weapons. He contributed that the Kingdom only imports a weapon when it already has trained the necessary cadres and experts, whether at the Saudi [military] academies or at the military academies of the friendly countries from which the weapons are bought. [passage omitted]

U.S. Criticized for Allowing 'Ubayd Abduction

PM2908104789 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 19 Aug 89 p 13

['Isam Bashir al-'Awf article: "The U.S. Citizen and Israeli Terrorism: How Much Longer?"]

[Excerpts] The United States is proud of its democracy and the fact that this democracy guarantees freedom for U.S. citizens. The United States considers freedom to be its own true culture which it wants to export to the world—the freedom and dignity of the individual. U.S. citizens in the United States and abroad are well looked after by their government. If an American national is badly treated in some state, the U.S. Embassy will quickly rise to defend him and his honor. This warm relationship between the U.S. Government and people is undoubtedly real, but it is not perfect, because there is one thing which gets much more favorable treatment from the United States than the U.S. citizen, and it is something for which the United States will sacrifice and endanger its own people. By that we mean Israeli policy, which enjoys U.S. protection and even uses the U.S. citizen as a trump card when it wants to put pressure on the United States itself.

The issue of the U.S. and European hostages in Lebanon is proof of that. We, of course, are against all kinds and forms of kidnapping and terrorism. [passage omitted]

What concerns us here is the U.S. Administration's stand regarding its kidnapped nationals. Of course it called for and insisted on their release, but the matter stopped there. The Americans enjoyed their annual and weekend holidays and forgot their administrative and political worries. They interrupt them only in cases of extreme emergency. [passage omitted]

Then Israel decided to and indeed did kidnap 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd from his home in Lebanon. His party's prompt reaction was to threaten to execute one of the U.S. hostages and then to carry out that threat. The world's attention focused on that horrible incident.

It was then that U.S. President George Bush cut short the holiday he was spending away from his heavy responsibilities to solve that problem. Attention was shifted to the question of U.S. reprisals. Two U.S. warships sailed from certain ports to undisclosed destinations.

The observation we want to make here is that the U.S. citizens held in Lebanon had been in captivity and under stress and coercion for a long time, yet the U.S. fleets did not move. When Israel kidnapped 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd the United States did nothing. When the so-called Hizballah threatened to execute an American citizen the United States also kept quiet, thinking it no more than a threat even though for the past 15 years Lebanon has seen nothing but the implementation of threats. The United States could have ensured the return of the Lebanese shaykh to his party by putting a little pressure on Israel and its government, which carries out gangsterism more savagely than any mercenary militia in Lebanon, but it did not seem to care about the Lebanese people or its own U.S. nationals.

The United States did not act to protect its citizens but it did act to enable Israel to indulge in kidnapping in pursuit of a terrorist policy.

'Aziz Receives Tarasov, Gorbachev Message

JN2808112089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received a message addressed to leader President Saddam Husayn from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Gennadiy Tarasov, USSR assistant foreign minister for Near East affairs, handed the message to Tariq 'Aziz during a meeting today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in all fields in addition to the developments in Lebanon. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretaries and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Arrives on Visit 28 Aug

JN2808125489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on an official visit to Iraq that will last for several days.

The visiting president was accorded an official reception headed by President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Official Talks Begin

JN2808194689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1803 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and Sudan began in Baghdad tonight. President Saddam Husayn chaired the Iraqi side and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], chaired the Sudanese side.

Talks dealt with relations between the two sisterly countries and the means of developing them. The two sides reviewed the situation in Sudan and the threats to which it is exposed. They also discussed the Arab situation and the requisites for bolstering Arab solidarity.

The Sudanese leader voiced his appreciation of Iraq's support for Sudan and highly valued Iraq's struggle in defense of the eastern flank of the Arab homeland and its success in warding off danger from the Arab nation and achieving security and peace in the region.

Attending the talks for the Iraqi side were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Izz-al-Din, minister of education and head of the dispatched escort of honor; and the Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum.

'Aziz Message Distributed at United Nations

JN2808171889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] New York, 28 Aug (INA)—The message sent by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was today distributed as a UN document.

In the message, Iraq reiterated its concern for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 as a peace plan that reflects its basic interests in peace and security and also the interests of all countries in the region.

In the message, Tariq 'Aziz demanded an immediate start to real, direct negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary general to achieve a common understanding on the implementation of the clauses of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the measures and timetables related to the implementation of these clauses.

The Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations delivered the message to Perez de Cuellar on 22 August and asked the message be distributed and considered a UN Security Council document.

Ministries Said 'Aware' of Colombia Activities

TA2908054389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Security sources had warned Ya'ir Klein from the Hod Hahanit Company, telling him that his activity was illegal and that Colombian security forces were trying to capture him. Klein persisted in his activity despite the warning and with no permit from Israel.

The sources have told our correspondent Roni Daniyel that Ya'ir Klein organized the last course in Colombia 4 months ago, smuggling weapons and other equipment to the trainees. He was then warned again that the Colombian authorities were trying to capture him, he was then smuggled out of Colombia via circuitous routes. The other trainers were kept at the camp against their will by their trainees, who allowed them to make one phone call a week to report on their condition. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 29 August adds that the calls were placed to another Israeli agent in Miami, Florida.] Relatives of the trainers in Israel appealed to authoritative sources, requesting help to obtain their release. The four trainers were released in a complex operation and returned to Israel.

Our correspondent adds that the Foreign and Defense Ministries were aware of Hod Hahanit's activities. According to the security sources, the company was paid approximately $800,000—not a sum between $20,000 and $40,000, as Klein had maintained—for training and arming a group in Colombia. The sources cannot point to a conclusive link between the groups trained by Hod Hahanit and the drug cartel, but they do not rule out the possibility that Klein himself knew about such a connection.

Ya'ir Klein and Amatzya Shu'ali were released on their own recognizance last night following questioning by the police's Investigations Division. The police seized documents from Klein's home in Moshav Hamra.

Klein 'Quite Cooperative'

TA2908052689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Aug 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Mikha'el Rotem, Menahem Shalev, David Horovitz, and Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Officers of the Serious Crimes Division opened their investigation into the Israeli involvement in Colombia with a lengthy interrogation of two directors of the Hod Hahanit military consultancy firm, Lt.-Col. (res.) [reserve] Ya'ir Klein and Lt.-Col. (res.) Amatzya Shu'ali.

The two were later released on bond and their passports were impounded. Police searched Klein's home and confiscated documents.

Police sources said that the two had been "quite cooperative" during their questioning, carried out over several cups of coffee, and that they had provided the police with a long list of names.

Before being questioned, Klein withdrew a previous threat to finger several senior retired officers, including a Knesset member, who had also been involved in defence-related business in Colombia. He said the Defence Ministry and the police already had the list and didn't need him to provide it.

Sources close to the investigation told THE JERUSALEM POST last night that the two had denied being involved with members of the Colombian drug cartels.

"It's a little early," one source said, "but I would say the men interrogated did not admit or give any indication that the people they trained were not farmers."

The two men were questioned separately by two teams of three officers. The investigating teams are headed by Deputy Commander Avi Teter. [passage omitted]

MK's Return From Poland; Comment on Ties

TA2508080089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport—MK [Knesset Member] Yosi Sarid predicted yesterday that full diplomatic relations with Poland will not be resumed in the immediate future.

Speaking on the return of three MKs from a Knesset-sponsored memorial mission in Poland, Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) said his impression about the diplomatic links was based on the meetings the MKs had with Polish politicians and statesmen.

Also accompanying Sarid were mission chairman MK Mikha'el Kleiner (Likud) and MK Yitzhaq Levi (National Religious Party). Labour MK Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer did not return with the others but continued on to Hungary.

In Poland, the MKs met Senate Chairman Angie Stelmachowski [name and title as published], Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Janusz Zukowski, Sejm (lower house) Chairman Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, Religious Affairs Minister Wladyslaw Loranc and Solidarity leader Jacek Kuron.

Sarid said that the new Polish Government will probably not resume full diplomatic relations with Israel in the near future for three reasons. These include Poland's close economic ties with Libya, Iraq and Iran; the fact that the new government will concentrate on urgent domestic issues rather than foreign affairs; and the fact that Poland does not believe that resuming diplomatic relations with Israel would reap significant economic benefits.

Kleiner disagreed with Sarid, noting that the Poles hope the new Solidarity-led government will bring Poland closer to the United States and Israel, which are expected to render Poland economic assistance.

The MKs noted that the removal of the Carmelite convent from Auschwitz will be a prolonged process, requiring delicate diplomacy and discreet talks. They also agreed that the recent demonstrations of American Jews outside the convent will serve to delay its removal.

Sarid warned of a deep crisis between the Jewish people, the Catholic Church and the Polish Government if the convent becomes the site of permanent demonstrations by Jewish groups.

"The right of the Mengele twins to demonstrate outside the convent is indisputable," Sarid said, but he added that other demonstrations there harmed efforts to remove the convent and complicated the issue.

"Especially harmful was the demonstration held by Rabbi Weiss, of the United States, which was provocative and unrestrained."

Meanwhile, Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer yesterday concluded his visit to Poland, the first official visit there by an Israeli minister.

Hammer signed agreements with Loranc, his Polish counterpart, on the renovation of Polish Jewish cemeteries and the appointment of a chief rabbi for Warsaw.

The two also signed an agreement to establish a joint fund to be administered by the two countries and international Jewish organizations, to preserve religious artifacts of the historical Polish Jewish community.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 25 August reports that "Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer has ended his visit to Poland. He left Warsaw without seeing President Jaruzelski, as he had planned to do. The Polish president was unable to set a time for the meeting because of his heavy schedules, associated with the political upheaval in his country. The letter from Prime Minister Shamir that Minister Hammer was carrying is to be conveyed to Jaruzelski at the next opportunity by Israel's ambassador to Poland."]

Shamir Congratulates Poland's Mazowiecki

TA2908101989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has congratulated Tadeusz Mazowiecki on his appointment as the prime minister of Poland. In his congratulatory message, Yitzhaq Shamir wrote that he conveys to Mazowiecki hearty wishes on behalf of the Israeli Government and people. Your election, says the cable, marks a new and important stage in the Polish people's political life. We wish you success in your efforts to unite your people and to overcome your economic difficulties. We hope your election will herald a new beginning in ties between Israel and Poland for the benefit of both nations, said Mr Shamir.

Efforts To Set Meeting With ROK's Choe Noted

TA2908082389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Aug 89 p 1

[Report by Moti Basok]

[Text] Israel is trying, through a third party, to arrange a historic meeting between Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his South Korean counterpart during their stay in Tokyo in November.

Eleven years ago, Israel closed down its embassy in Seoul due to financial reasons and has since then been represented in South Korea by its embassy in Tokyo. At the time, the authorities in Seoul were enraged by the closure of the embassy.

In the last few years the South Korean authorities have rejected all Israeli appeals to reopen the embassy in Seoul. U.S. efforts to help Israel in this matter were also vehemently rejected by the Koreans. The Americans believe that the Koreans were deeply offended by the closure of the embassy. In view of the speedy economic development experienced by South Korea in the eighties, Israel has been hurt by the absence of an embassy in one of the most prominent economic superpowers in the world. The Koreans have recently softened their attitude toward Israel, and the stationing in Seoul of a staffer from the embassy in Tokyo has become more attractive.

Arens will leave for Japan in November to reciprocate the visit of his Japanese counterpart several months ago. Dani Rave, Arens' spokesman, said yesterday that Arens' meetings in Tokyo have not yet been set. Nevertheless, as noted, Israel is trying to arrange a meeting between Arens and the South Korean foreign minister. At the same time, efforts are under way to arrange a meeting between Arens and the new Japanese prime minister, in addition to his scheduled meeting with the Japanese foreign minister. During his stay in the Far East Minister Arens may visit other countries that maintain relations with Israel.

Favorable Response 'Likely' to Appeal on Panama

TA2908064289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Aug 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] President Bush has asked for Israeli support in the efforts to induce Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega to relinquish power.

In a letter to Prime Minister Shamir dated August 22, Bush requested that Jerusalem urge Noriega to give up control of the Panamanian Government by September 1. The president explicitly asked that Israel tell Noriega

that if he clings on to his position, Jerusalem will be forced to "reassess" its relations with Panama.

The letter, which appears to have been sent to several leaders of democratic countries, asks for the "solidarity of democratic nations" in the efforts to depose Noriega.

Officials in Jerusalem said yesterday that Israel was now formulating its response to Bush, and that Jerusalem was likely to respond favourably to the president's appeal. [passage omitted]

Joint List Accord Signed by Left-Wing Parties

TA2108155189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], the Progressive List for Peace [PLP], and Darawshah's party have signed an agreement according to which the three factions will run on a joint list in the Histadrut elections. The agreement was made possible after the PLP accepted the ultimatum of HADASH that the list be headed by a Jew, Binyamin Gonen. HADASH has been allotted 60 percent of the seats on the joint list.

Palestinian Deportee's 5-Point Peace Plan

TA2508132789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Aug 89 p 4

["Article" by Taysir 'Aruri, Bir Zayt University physics lecturer and member of the Palestinian Communist Party, written during a 1-year term in Junayd prison near Nabulus "for political activity"]

[Text] This article will outline the main issues that need to be addressed and resolved so that a just and lasting solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict may be realized.

It is clear that achieving a just and durable peace between the two peoples requires that the main objectives of each be realized, taking into account the balance of interests between the Palestinians and Israelis themselves as well as other regional parties to the conflict. This is one of the reasons why we must search for a solution through an international peace conference, to be attended by all parties to the conflict including the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

It is perhaps not inappropriate to emphasize that it is unrealistic for either party to opt for a military solution to the conflict. This is especially so in view of the current international climate and the experience of other peoples in conflict, as in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola, Namibia and Nicaragua.

It is also unrealistic to try to impose extreme "final solutions" aimed at liquidating the adversary, as are notions of the total transfer of the Palestinian people outside Mandatory Palestine; the destruction of the State of Israel; the perpetuation of the occupation; the denial of the existence of the Palestinian people; or the denial of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

It is reasonable to assume that a lasting solution must be based—even in broad terms—on international consensus and legitimacy as expressed by resolutions concerning Palestine and the Israeli-Arab conflict adopted by the United Nations and its various bodies, particularly the General Assembly and the Security Council—specifically General Assembly Resolutions 181 and 194 and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The main elements of a serious, realistic peace plan addressing the minimum requirements of the two peoples must include the following:

—The end of the occupation and the withdrawal of the Israeli army from all lands occupied as a result of the Six-Day War, and vacating all Israeli settlements, without exception, built beyond the Green Line;
—Granting the Palestinian people the right to self-determination, including the right to establish an independent and democratic state on lands from which the Israeli army withdraws, i.e., the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip;
—The implementation of full political, diplomatic, economic and other relations between the two states, Israel and Palestine, with firm guarantees of true security for each state and the right of each to live in peace and security within internationally recognized boundaries. It may also be necessary for each state to pass legislation limiting the activity of parties or political groups advocating the destruction of the other state or encroachment upon its territory;
—Resolution of the Palestine refugee problem in accordance with relevant UN resolutions;
—Guaranteeing the right of both peoples and of Jews, Moslems and Christians the world over to have access to the holy places in Jerusalem.

An important lesson may be learned from the experience of European states. The peace now prevailing among them is so strong that it seems unimaginable that war is an option that could be exercised to settle disputes that may arise between, say, Germany and France, Britain and Spain, or the Balkan states. The main reason for the stability of peace that exists in Europe today is the strength and extensiveness of common interests, especially in the economic sphere. As a result, any conflict that may arise between any two states remains small relative to the interests that bind them. The balance of common interests alone determines the nature of the relations between states and creates the bases for a durable peace.

In contrast, the Camp David peace accords between Israel and Egypt did not create a comparable situation between the two countries, despite the passage of 10 years since their conclusion, because the treaty failed to create a balance of interlocking interests between them.

The dynamics of conflict between Israelis and Palestinians are different, mainly because more than 20 years of

occupation have created a number of objective conditions independent of the will of the occupier. These conditions may be crucial in laying the foundation for a stable and durable peace over the ruins of the occupation.

The various factors of the development of Palestinian society under occupation—such as the building of mass organizations, mass mobilization and leadership, political struggle on a popular scale, the crystallization of an independent Palestinian identity and the growth of political consciousness—were the necessary preconditions for the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987.

The uprising has in turn made possible a revolutionary transformation in Palestinian political thought, and has enabled a more realistic understanding of what it will take to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab conflicts. This applies, in varying degrees, to most Palestinian organizations that comprise the PLO, with the exception of the Palestine Communist Party, which advocated a two-state solution in 1947 and reaffirmed it in 1982 after the party's reconstitution.

This new realism was expressed in the resolutions of the 19th session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers in November 1988, in the Palestinian peace initiative, and in the speech and declaration of Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva (all of which were later endorsed by the Executive Committee of the PLO).

The uprising has also affected important transformations in the Israeli mentality, not least of which is the realization that the status quo cannot continue and that there is a need to seek solutions to the conflict. However, the proposed solutions span a wide range, from accepting the principle of the right of the Palestinian people; to self-determination and the establishment of their state alongside Israel; to self-rule; to annexation of the occupied territories, ending with transfer.

The most crucial factors in laying the foundations of a stable and durable peace are those that have to do with interlocking economic and other interests of both peoples (provided that these interests are construed to serve the interests of both parties equally). Economic relations between the two peoples over the last two decades have developed in a distorted and imbalanced way. They have not been based on equality, but rather on the laws of the occupation, which never missed an opportunity to consecrate this distorted relationship in the interest of Israel and to the detriment of the Palestinians.

Here I will note a few examples of the basis for a durable peace on the level of economic relations. Reference to such details is not akin to fighting over the fur before catching the bear—but is an exercise in taking into consideration the vital interests of all concerned parties. What may look like mere details in what follows in fact reaches to the heart of the these vital interests.

—Palestinian Labourers Employed in Israel: It is not in the interest of the future Palestinian state to begin its independence with more than 110,000 workers who have lost their jobs in Israel and who face partial or total unemployment for a long time. Conversely, it is not in the interest of the Israeli economy to lose this cheap labour force.
—Tourism: The fact that important historical, religious and archeological sites of interest to tourists are found within both states, Israel and Palestine, necessitates coordination between the two (under peace conditions) if they desire to develop tourism—which may become one of the most important sources of revenue for both states, particularly for Palestine.
—Water: Due to the limited supply, and in view of the fact that many aquifers lie under the hills of the future Palestinian state and along the borders of the two states, it would be necessary to form joint bodies to supervise the utilization and development of water resources.
—Electricity: Driven by political and economic aims, the policy of the occupying authorities has led to a situation in which more than 90 percent of the electricity consumed in the territories comes from the Israel Electric Corporation. Because the construction of power plants capable of meeting the needs of Palestinian state would require a number of years, it would become paramount to search for suitable solutions based on mutual cooperation.
—Ports and Airports: Until such time that a port is developed in Gaza and a civilian airport is built in the Palestinian state, there will be no choice for Palestinians but to use such facilities in Israel.
—Other Issues: These include the question of access between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip via a land or air corridor and many others related to the interlocking of economic and market relations between the two states that are no less important than the five points enumerated above.

In any case, when discussing the common economic interests of the two states, two sets of issues will continue to cast a dark shadow and to raise Palestinian fears unless dealt with. They are, first, those related to legislation passed during the occupation that serve the interests of Israel at the expense of the Palestinians; and the second, those related to the gap in economic and technological power between the two states, and the interest of the Palestinian state not to become economically dependent on Israel.

1 Killed in Irtah; Houses Demolished in W. Bank

TA2908044589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] A 55-year-old Arab from a village outside Tulkarm was killed overnight during a clash with army soldiers. Military sources said the man attacked soldiers with an iron bar during an army sweep of the village of Irtah. Jamil Abu-Safaqa was shot and later died in the hospital.

In the Gaza Strip, three residents of the Jabalyah refugee camp were lightly wounded by army fire. Disturbances broke out in the camp after the news spread of the death of Muhammad Sha'ban, who died in Tel Hashomer Hospital several days after being injured by army fire.

In Hebron, a soldier was lightly wounded when a local vehicle tried to flee from an army roadblock. The soldier was struck by the car. Soldiers at the roadblock fired, but the car managed to escape.

The army is investigating a complaint by a Gaza youth that soldiers tortured him. Thirteen-year-old 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah of the Zaytun neighborhood was brought to al-Ahali Hospital in Gaza with injuries to all parts of his body. Those who brought him to the hospital claimed that an army patrol detained the youth, and that soldiers tied him to a vehicle and dragged him on the ground.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 29 August adds that "two houses were demolished and another boarded up by the security forces in Judaea and Samaria. The houses belonged to local residents suspected of engaging in hostile terrorist activities. The house of one suspect was razed and another's was boarded up in 'Askar near Nabulus. The two are suspected of having planted an explosive charge on the road leading to the settlement of Elon More last year. In Bayt Sahur, the security forces demolished the house of two brothers suspected of having set a military truck on fire and having thrown a firebomb. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the demolitions were carried out after the High Court of Justice rejected the appeal of the home owners."]

Further on Unrest in Territories 28 Aug

TA2908084989 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Aug 89 p 3

[Report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami, Ayelet Mazor, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Twenty-two-year-old Mandal Sulayman from the village of Dayr Ibzi' in the Ramallah District, known to be have been collaborating with the authorities, was stabbed yesterday and taken in serious condition to a hospital in Ramallah. [passage omitted]

Two inhabitants of the refugee camp in Tulkarm were wounded yesterday in clashes with Israeli soldiers.

Israeli troops carried out arrests yesterday in Kafr Malik and Dayr Jarir in the Ramallah district after Israeli civilian vehicles driving through the area were pelted with stones. [passage omitted]

The army clamped a curfew and sealed four alleys in the village of al-'Ayzariyah near Jerusalem, following the wounding of a settler from Ma'ale Adummim whose car was pelted with stones 2 days ago. [passage omitted]

Students from two Qalandiyah schools were dispersed with tear gas and rubber bullets following riots. [passage omitted]

Al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus last night reported admitting 11 people suffering from gunshot wounds. [Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 29 August, in a pool report on page 6, adds that "serious riots erupted last night in the refugee camps of Rafah, Jabalyah, and Khan Yunus. Arab sources reported 15 casualties; 6 of them, aged 12 to 15, sustained gunshots in their heads and stomachs and were hospitalized in serious condition, and 7-year-old Faris al-Najjar from Khan Yunus who was severely wounded in the stomach by a gunshot."]

Three Ministers Resign To Prepare for Elections

JN2908072889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Aug 89 p 3

[By Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—The runup to Jordan's first general election in 22 years has reached a high point with the resignation of three members of the cabinet to prepare for the Nov. 8 polls.

Official sources confirmed that Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir had accepted the resignations of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Tahir al-Masri, Minister of Education 'Abdallah al-Nusur and Public Works and Housing Minister Shafiq al-Zawayidah. The resignations take effect Sept. 1, and a Royal Decree is expected to be issued soon accepting them.

The Jordanian Constitution does not allow active government officials to run in national elections. It stipulates that government officials, including ministers, must leave office at least 65 days before elections if they want to run for parliament seats. Candidacy nominations will be accepted on Oct. 14 to 16.

Al-Masri, Al-Nusur and Al-Zawayidah are expected to be the only members of the present cabinet running for the Nov. 8 elections.

The resignations of the three ministers were widely expected by election analysts. Dhuqan al-Hindawi resigned as chief of the Royal Court earlier this month to prepare his election campaign in Irbid Governorate.

Al-Hindawi, as well as Amman Mayor 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, whose resignation was reported in the local press earlier this week, are running for two of the eight seats allocated for Muslims from Irbid Governorate.

It was not clear Monday whether the government was planning to appoint new ministers or bring about a brief reshuffle to make up for the vacancies left by the resignations.

However, informed sources said Al-Masri's post is expected to stay vacant until after the elections. The government of Al-Sharif Zayd, according to the sources, is mostly seen as a caretaker government pending the elections and the vacancy left behind by Al-Masri will be filled with the formation of a new government.

Al-Zawayidah confirmed his resignation, but denied reports in the Arabic-language SAWT AL-SHA'B newspaper that Transport and Communications Minister Hikmat al-Khammash will take over the responsibilities of his ministry.

"The report is not true about the replacement," said Al-Zawyidah, who is running for the Christian seat in the sixth district of Amman, Ma'daba. "The choice has not been decided yet," he told the JORDAN TIMES in a telephone interview.

He refused to confirm suggestions that another member of the cabinet will be taking over the Ministry. "Maybe it will be a minister or a new minister could be appointed," he said.

Al-Zawayidah would not comment on any aspects of the elections on the grounds that he remained a minister until Sept. 1 and therefore should not make any such statement. "Contact me after Sept. 1," he said.

Reports that Al-Nusur's post will be taken over by Minister of [Higher] Education Nasir al-Din al-Asad or Agriculture Minister 'Adnan Badran, who was the former president of al-Yarmuk University, could not be confirmed.

Officials at the Ministry of Education said that Al-Nusur was not in his office Monday nor did they expect him.

Al-Masri will be seeking one of four Muslim seats in the Third District of Amman. According to information available to the JORDAN TIMES, he is not the only former minister in the race. The names of Hamdi al-Tabba', Muhammad al-Dabbas and Muhammad Abu-al-Ghanam have also been reported as potential candidates in the Third District, in addition to journalist Mahmud al-Kayid, former chairman of the Jordan Press Foundation Company Limited, Milhim al-Tal, banker Fakhri al-Bilbaysi, Judge Ghalib Abu-'Abbud, ex-deputy Faris al-Nabulsi, pharmacist Amin Shuqayr and Hayfa' al-Bashir, head of the Jordanian Women's Federation.

At least five are tipped to seek the sole Christian seat in the same district. They are: Dr. Jamal al-Sha'ir, Dr. Carlos Di'mis, Shabib Abu-Jabir, George Haddad and journalist Fakhri Qa'war.

The only name available to the JORDAN TIMES Monday as potential rival to al-Zawayidah in Ma'daba was Kamil Masariwah.

Those in pursuit of the sole Muslim seat from Ma'daba include Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, and Muhammad Qutaysh.

Al-Nusur is running for one of the six seats allocated to Muslims in the al-Balqa' region. Pundits predict al-Nusur will have a strong showing in the polls since "he is popular in Salt."

Paper Views Banking System 'Corruption'

JN2808075589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Aug 89 p 6

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff writer: "Banking Experience Is 'Satanic'"]

[Text] "Fatthal," "Murawigh" and "Wahsh" are some public descriptions of Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi,

governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, over the moves he successfully engineered to stabilise the dinar and bewilder foreign currency arbitrageurs.

The Arabic descriptions, translating into "extremely smart," "deceiver" and "bull" respectively reflect the happiness, disappointment and energetic feelings of people watching the daily positive events, which are painful to opportunists and racketeers, taking place on the economic scene.

I don't intend to go into a profound review of the moneyexchange business because everyone is seeing and hearing the news every hour on the hour and all kinds of reactions and anticipations are filling the air. But, a simple though meaningfully big "thank you" should be said to the Arab states and funds and the foreign governments and institutions as well as the Jordanian brains which all helped the Jordanian leadership steer the economy back to course.

The theme I would like to dwell upon today is really a continuation to the "personal loans" article which was published earlier this month. The "banking empire" seems so badly in need of reforms since it is the locomotive that trails all other economic wagons; the reform of which will never succeed if the main engine and driving power remains unrepaired.

Even repair is not enough when an asset's value sinks below zero due to the element of depreciation which should be called experience when referring to the human asset.

Unlike mechanics, farming, teaching, secretarial, medical and hundred other fields, the banking experience is satanic knowing that, at the very least, money is evil.

Banking symbolises honesty... and all other saintly features but banking can also be a nest of corruption ranging from leaking information to destabilizing a whole system of a country either through bankers who know too much or too little or those who care less for any of the two.

The examples below are only samples of tens of cases that occur daily at more than a few banks and financial institutions in Jordan.

One bank follows international standards in analysing credit requests but the funny part is the management reading into the ratios and other key indicators which result from the analysis. In short, if the working capital is positive and, thus, the current ratio is not less than one, then the applicant deserves a loan or an overdraft because the financial situation warrants it. But, to be on the safe side, the bank's management decides that an additional real estate hypothecation or any other form of tangible collateral would not harm to guard against negative working capital in the future.

The aforementioned twisted logic, which is the bank's solid philosophy regarding all credit analysis, means that applicants who carry a risk and need financial backing would not get it to the benefit of the unneedy who enjoy a current ratio (or even a quick asset ratio) above one.

Another sample at another bank is not complicated and does not require elaboration. The lending process there is a one-way downhill freeway... from the chief to the clerk whom the banks call credit officer and claim to be independent when he (sometimes she) only functions as an information gatherer and filing clerk.

The credit officer at a main branch of a third bank, or even the manager if the branch carries a lesser weight, sometimes eclipes the top management power because the network of clients, friends, informers and subordinates he had intertwined over the years makes him valuable, indispensable and "God's gift to the bank" with great "experience."

The civilised, most respectful and grand way of lending somewhere else in Jordan is unbelievably smart. The concerned department prepares two sheets. One shows a "clean" or unsecured credit and other shows that the loan or the overdraft is against a foreign currency account in Europe or the United States blocked in favour of the financial institution in Jordan until all obligations of the "debtor" are settled.

If the Central Bank launches an inspection raid, courtesy requires that the auditors call first on the general manager who, while sipping a cup of tea with the team, rings the department of credit authorising the inspection (and the switch). The outcome is "clean" of course. Other inspectors see the credit file as it should be... "blocked."

Behind every debtor in Jordan, believe me, there is a story. The stories, regardless of tellers, speak of unfairness, favouritism, cheating, lying and personal benefits.

I was offered a "lagtaw" (bargain) to buy a plot of land years ago with some "partners" who turned out to be top managers of banks when I was secretively shown the names. The settler's agent was probably implying the "eat but feed" policy.

Should bankers in any way be blamed?

What was said was one side of the coin only. The banks complain of high competition, which forces a fight at all levels that, as an example, the element of trust among themselves no longer exists. If Bank A sends "good" confidential information about a client to Bank B, the latter becomes more doubtful that the report was cosmetic to transfer "a bad account" to its books with the prior knowledge of the client.

A branch of Bank C offered a branch of Bank D a guarantee to give a client a certain amount for a specific period. The strange deal, coming from a bank offering its own guarantee for the facility, sounded fishy. Investigations revealed that Bank C was under pressure to liquidate the client's overdraft by all means and, unable to do so, opted to the said method which technically fits the purpose perfectly.

There is absolutely no way that regulations, inspections or mergers can lift banking in Jordan to the level where everybody can be happy. However, to eliminate some corruption and ensure a fairer system, two main policies should be seriously considered.

1) To have banks and financial institutions adopt a strategy of quick transfers whereby key personnel should "depreciate" faster than the office furniture that he (or she) occupies;

2) Without setting up a new institution, to widen the role of the Association of Banks in Jordan to "reconcile banks" and help the businessmen who have good reason to say that they are "victims" of banks' intransigence.

One last note....

Banks prepare a quarterly report that classifies all outstanding credits into sectors to enable policy-makers to monitor lending trends and adjust economic policies accordingly. Banks consolidate the reports from their branches and the Central Bank reconsolidates all input and publishes it as official government statistics.

Such important statistics, according to one knowledgeable source only take him about 10 minutes to prepare whereas, if the figures are to be accurate and meaningful, the job entails at least eight hours work.

The source says he is under orders to "invent" any figures as long as the grand total tallies with the gross figure in the general ledger.

Gross, isn't it?

Paper Urges U.S. Condemnation of Deportations

JN2908101689 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Aug 89 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Zionist Practices and the Required Measures]

[Text] In a new challenge to UN Security Council resolutions and world public opinion, Israel has once again deported another group of Palestinians from their homeland, thereby violating the fourth Geneva conventions and disregarding all existing laws and norms.

The continuing Israeli violation of Palestinian rights is the natural outcome of the U.S. policy of turning a blind eye to Israeli crimes against the Palestinian Arabs.

U.S. opposition to any condemnation of Israel's deportation policy in the UN Security Council is a blatant example of its policy of blind, biased support for Israel even if it violates U.S. values and principles and contradicts U.S. slogans advocating the principles of justice, freedom, human rights, and democracy.

Thus, we view the Shamir-Rabin terrorist government's continued disregard for the human rights of Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories as another clear indication of the erroneous policy of providing complete protection for Israel in the UN Security Council from all international condemnation and blame whenever it carries out deportations.

In view of all that, we call on the United States, which has previously prevented the Security Council from carrying out its responsibilities, to persuade Israel to halt such inhuman practices as the daily killing of Arab citizens, deportations, or any other act which the United States would not accept if committed by any state other than Israel.

Birri Speaks on Political Solution, Soviet Moves

NC2808171389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has emphasized that there is as yet no political plan superseding a military solution. At a press conference after the National Front's meeting today, Birri said: The national forces are training their fighters and preparing themselves. We hope that there will be a political solution but if this becomes difficult, then we will not accept that a new cancerous tumor be established in our homeland. He pointed out that political Maronism is a twin and ally of Zionism.

Minister Birri added: The situation cannot continue. Either 'Awn or the Arab national and democratic forces in Lebanon will win. He added: Politically, we welcome a solution based on abolishing the current system of rule. If we cannot achieve a political solution, then we will surgically remove the tumor.

Referring to recent Soviet moves, Minister Birri said: The Soviet Union opposes internationalization and it understands the reality of the situation in Lebanon. It wants a solution in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolutions.

PSP Statement Criticizes French 'Intervention'

NC2808173389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party's [PSP] Political Bureau has met under party leader Minister Walid Junblatt and discussed local developments. The bureau commented on France's blatant intervention in Lebanese affairs and bias toward the schemes and tools of latter-day crusaders. The PSP Political Bureau urged France to stop supplying General 'Awn with arms before it calls for a cease-fire and the banning of arms supplies. The bureau said that this call can be implemented through the formation of a committee, on which the National Front would be represented, to monitor the coast and search ships. The bureau said it regards French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' proposal as an attempt to keep the French fleet deployed off the Lebanese coast and legitimize its defense and support of Michel 'Awn and his schemes following the punitive operation in Suq al-Gharb, as a prelude to a new war to be launched with the aim of establishing a racist Christian entity in a diminished Lebanon.

The PSP political bureau declared that the sovereignty issue is a Lebanese concern and France cannot impose its concept of Lebanese sovereignty on us. The bureau noted that the French concept is one of mandate and guardianship, which France is attempting to restore and enshrine again in Lebanon. It pointed out that national sovereignty can be consolidated by liberating the south from Israeli occupation and called on France to show its sincerity by playing a role in this.

No Comment From Vatican on Shiite Death Threat

AU2808140789 Rome ANSA in English 1232 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] (ANSA) Vatican City, August 28—The Vatican has "no comment to make" on the death threat issued against the pope should he set foot in Lebanon, by the pro-Iranian fundamentalist group, the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro told reporters Monday.

Asked whether Pope John Paul II still intended to visit the strife-torn country, Navarro said that the position was unchanged with respect to last Friday's [25 August] declaration of the pope's wish to go to Lebanon.

Fadlallah Ready To Guarantee Pope's Protection

NC2808174189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Following the Iranian warning to Pope John Paul II not to visit Lebanon and the Organization in Defense of the Oppressed on Earth's statement advising the pope to write his will before coming to Beirut because he would be one of the victims of the war, Hizballah's spiritual guide Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has announced that he is ready to guarantee the pope's protection during the visit he invited the pope to pay to West Beirut.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly South, Mountain

NC2908093889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew southern Lebanon and reached as far as the mountain a short while ago.

'Violent' Clashes on Suq al-Gharb Front

NC2808174289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of artillery are taking place on the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat combat lines. Similar clashes took place on the Dahr al-Wahsh-'Alayh combat lines between 1630 and 1700 today, during which shells fell in residential neighborhoods in 'Arayya.

Intermittent skirmishes have been taking place for the last 75 minutes on the Saqiy al-Hadath, al-Laylakah, and Sfayr confrontation lines. Shells also fell in residential areas in al-Hadath.

Skirmishes have also been taking on the Ra's al-Nab' and Primo lines in Beirut since this afternoon. A shell fell in the Beirut port area at around 1700.

A number of shells fell in some areas in the central part of northern al-Matn this afternoon.

Clashes Reported in Beirut Areas

NC2908093989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Clashes involving the use of machineguns and mortars have been raging along the Dahr al-Wahsh combat lines since 1200. Three shells landed in the area of Furn al-Shubbak at 1150. Meanwhile, skirmishes have been reported along the lines in al-Tayyunah.

Fighting in Beirut; Maritime Target Attacked

NC2908055289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The security situation suffered a setback last night when clashes broke out along the various traditional combat lines. Shells fell on residential areas, leaving one person dead and six others wounded. According to security reports, the situation flared up early yesterday at the old market, Sodeco, Ra's al-Nab', and al-Tayyunah. Shells landed in the military beach area in West Beirut at 0130 today.

Meanwhile, the operations room of the Army Command in Beirut and the National Front declared that their artillery pieces bombarded a maritime target trying to approach Juniyah port at 0230 today. This implements the decision banning military supplies to the eastern areas.

Fuel Tanker Attacked; Crew Members Missing

NC2908073389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Syrian artillery attacks continued against the eastern area as of 0240 today. A number of shells were fired toward the fuel tanker (Suncheald) which was sailing 7 miles off the Kasrawan coast. Fire broke out in the tanker, and a number of the crew members were wounded. Paul 'Isa and Hanna al-Siddiq were taken to the Sayyidat Lubnan Hospital, then to the Hotel Dieu Hospital.

According to reports, nine of the tanker's crew are still missing. [In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 0613 GMT on 29 August adds that the tanker was "carrying 11,000 tons of fuel when it suffered a direct hit seven nautical miles offshore. Police, who did not give the vessel's nationality, said it was towed to the coast in flames by the Lebanese Navy."]

The shelling against the eastern areas this morning on the al-Matn coast martyed citizen Alis Hilu and wounded Sawsan Lutayf. The areas of al-Ashrafiyah, the port's periphery, and the coasts of al-Matn and Kasrawan came under Syrian shelling from West Beirut and Upper al-Matn.

Between 0600 and 0620, several shells fell on the al-Matn coast, al-Hadath, and Jubayl beach. Clashes also raged along the suburb lines. The coasts of Jubayl and Kasrawan were the target of concentrated shelling between 0700 and 0730.

French Envoy Scheer Arrives in Beirut 29 Aug

NC2908074989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] French envoy Francois Scheer arrived in Beirut from Damascus on board a private plane a short while ago. He will begin his meetings with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn at 1100 today.

French-Soviet Formula for Solution Outlined

NC2908075989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] AL-DIYAR newspaper reports today that a French-Soviet formula for resolving the Lebanese problem has been approved by the parties concerned. The formula includes the following articles:

1. Syria is not to supply its allies with weapons;
2. Jordan is not to allow weapons to be smuggled through its territory;
3. Iraq is to pledge not to supply the Lebanese parties with weapons;
4. An Arab committee is to be formed to monitor the coasts and ships;
5. The French Navy is to play a role in preventing weapons smuggling to Lebanon;
6. The Lebanese state is not to import weapons until the mandate of the Arab committee expires. Only spare parts and simple necessary equipment will be exempted;
7. The ministers participating in the tripartite ministerial committee are to resume their activity and issue a statement forming the Arab observation committee;
8. Political talks on national reconciliation and reform will be initiated within the framework of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies;
9. Syria is to accept the Arab committee's suggestion to withdraw its troops from Beirut toward the al-Biqa' valley provided that the suggestion is amended to allow Syria to retain certain positions in Jisr al-Mudayrij, Dahr al-Baydar, and the Sinnin hills;
10. And, practical withdrawal is to begin after the election of a Lebanese president and the formation of a national unity government.

French Envoy Visits To Discuss Lebanon Solution

Al-Shar', Scheer Meet

JN2808114389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received today Francois Scheer, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry and envoy of the French Government. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; the director of the West European department in the Foreign Ministry; and the French ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting, the two sides continued to discuss and exchange opinions on the situation in Lebanon and recent developments in the Lebanese situation.

Scheer Comments

JN2808150989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] A new round of Syrian-French talks was held this morning here on the situation in Lebanon. For about 4 hours, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the French delegation headed by Francois Scheer, French Foreign Ministry secretary general, who is also President Francois Mitterrand's envoy and who arrived in Damascus last night.

It has been learned that Mr Scheer is carrying a message from the French president to President al-Asad dealing with the situation in Lebanon and bilateral relations between France and Syria.

Upon leaving the extended meeting with Minister al-Shar', the French envoy stated to journalists: My visit to Damascus comes within the framework of the French-Syrian dialogue, which was resumed on the 13th of this month. This dialogue continued through our embassies. Today was an occasion for us to affirm to Minister al-Shar' that France's stand on Lebanon has not changed and that our goal has been, and always will be, basically one of peace.

The French envoy adds: This effort will continue to fix a cease-fire and lift sieges, in addition to resuming inter-Lebanese dialogue. We know that the Arab League is following a similar effort, and we support it totally. Within the framework of the efforts exerted by the Arab countries, we greatly hope that the higher Arab tripartite committee will continue its task as soon as possible.

In a clear indication to the Soviet Union, the French envoy said: We know that other countries are exerting efforts in the same direction, especially the Soviet Union. He added: What I wish to repeat here in Damascus is that from our point of view, we do not at all believe that a political solution in Lebanon is possible without effective participation from Syria. We also believe that any solution in Lebanon can only be political.

It is expected that another round of talks will take place this evening. French sources also affirmed that Francois Scheer will leave for Beirut tomorrow on a dialogue mission with the key figures in both East and West Beirut.

Scheer To Travel to Beirut

JN2808204889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Louis Faris diapatch from Damascus]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at his summer place of residence in Latakia Francois Scheer, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry and President Francois Mitterrand's envoy. The meeting, which lasted 2 and ½ hours, was attended on the Syrian side by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and on the French side by (Jean-Luc Debute), deputy director of the Middle East and North African department at the French Foreign Ministry and (Bernard Bajulier) the French charge d'affaires in Damascus. Following the meeting, an official Syrian source said that Scheer conveyed to President al-Asad a message from French President Francois Mitterrand and that President al-Asad asked the French envoy to carry a reply message.

He added that talks centered on the situation in Lebanon. Neither the Syrian nor the French side gave details. Both sides also made no comments. However, they said that Scheer will leave for Beirut on Tuesday to hold a dialogue with the key Lebanese figures in West and East Beirut. But observers considered President al-Asad's reception of the French envoy in Latakia as a great honor to the French delegation. In light of the satisfaction showed by the Syrian and French sides, it is believed that silence over the two sides' talks is aimed at achieving success for the current efforts, which, as the French envoy said, is aimed at entrenching the cease-fire, lifting the siege, resuming the inter-Lebanese dialogue, and reviving the mission of the higher Arab tripartite commitee.

Al-Asad Receives Scheer, Message

JN2908061089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] At 1730 yesterday, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Francois Scheer, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry and emissary of French President Francois Mitterrand. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Scheer conveyed to the president a message from President Mitterrand. The president asked him to convey a reply message to the French president. The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

Earlier yesterday, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the French emissary. During the meeting, the two sides resumed discussion and exchanged opinions on the situation in Lebanon.

Following the meeting, Scheer said: We do not believe that a political solution in Lebanon is possible without the effective participation of Syria. We also believe that any solution in Lebanon can only be political.

Scheer stressed his country's support for the Arab League's efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis. He expressed the hope that the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon will resume its mission as soon as possible.

Press Urges Dialogue To Resolve Lebanon Crisis

JN2708074089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Through Dialogue and Not Through Arms Will Lebanon Recover," AL-BA'TH editorial says: There is a semiconsensus that the use of arms cannot bring peace and security to Lebanon. Besides, Lebanon cannot recover under the threat of arms to resolve its crisis, regain its health, and restore the unity of its people as well as its territorial integrity.

The paper adds: Syria, which has spared no effort to find common denominators among the parties to the conflict, has affirmed that the use of arms and threats cannot bring security, peace, and reassurance to Lebanon and the Lebanese.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Likewise, the Casablanca summit resolutions also stressed in detail the need to launch a political dialogue and to refrain from the use of arms. Also, here is the USSR in the person of its envoy Tarasov, affirming that the use of arms does not serve the unity of Lebanon and that it will bring nothing other than devastation and destruction to Lebanon.

The paper says: We, in Syria, continue to believe and affirm that the solution of the crisis with all of its details cannot be found outside the general Arab framework, which is committed to Lebanon's unity and Arabism. This was asserted by the Arab leaders through the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon. Besides, the ideal solution must come about through dialogue to reach a national accord.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: And now, despite all the campaigns of deception and distortion, Syria, which has sacrificed a great deal for the sake of safeguarding Lebanon's unity and Arabism, will continue to pursue its principled pan-Arab policy vis-a-vis Lebanon, a policy which has contributed to the creation of suitable conditions for the desired and fair solution. However, Syria will not allow Michel 'Awn and those supporting him to carry out their conspiracy against Lebanon and the Arab nation.

Under the headline "The Exposed Game," AL-THAWRAH editorial says: It is clear that the aggravation of the Lebanese situation, the intensification of the conspiracy, the escalation of toying with the Lebanese wound, and bringing this French military buildup off the Lebanese coast seek first and foremost to throw a shadow over the Zionist role, to spare Israel the ensuing consequences, and to alleviate the burdens plaguing it as a result of its public involvement in coordinating with the Iraqi regime to support the partition-seeking clique and the Judaization policy being carried out by Israel, in both the Lebanese and Arab arenas.

AL-THAWRAH adds: That is why the figures exposed to the Arab and world public—those who seek to conceal their roles—display strenuous efforts to change the axioms and basic reasons for the new developments to achieve three objectives: Firstly, to conceal the Zionist role, impose a news blackout on Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon, and neutralize the biggest terrorism establishment known to the world through pushing big military powers to carry out small objectives while upholding humanitarian slogans. Secondly, to give Israel a greater opportunity to quash the intifadah [uprising] being staged by the Palestinian Arab people in a suitable atmosphere of surrender and capitulation, which is currently prevailing in the region, and also to preoccupy the nationalist forces and divert their attention away from exposing and confronting this repression and capitulation. Thirdly, to marginalize the basic reasons that led to the eruption of the Lebanese crisis, to bolster the Israeli role, and to perpetuate the occupation of the Lebanese territory regardless of the UN resolutions issued in this regard.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: The game that is being played against the Lebanese people is exposed and the parties to this game are well known, irrespective of the forms and disguises they assume. Besides, Lebanon is more capable of survival than the forces and figures destined to live in the darkness of agentry, espionage, and false imported slogans.

Commentary Defends Nation's Stance on Lebanon

JN2608145889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Many a move may prove controversial for some time. The danger in any stance that has been ill-prepared and ill-advised is that its adverse consequences may transcend its proponents to produce unforeseen repercussions that could compound things still further. Since 'Awn brought the security situation to a head, there have been military and other demagogical moves by a certain international party and another Arabic-speaking party. It is obvious that these moves are useless—to their initiators, to the region, and to Lebanon.

As things stand now, these moves, especially those of an international military nature, though still there, have taken a low profile to give way to other more serious political efforts that do really care for Lebanon. The declining visibility of military moves off the Lebanese coast shows them to have been ill-considered and to have been inspired by faulty calculations. It does not matter whether this low profile is the outcome of a conviction on the part of its initiators or by international and regional considerations or for that matter factors that have to do with the determined stand of the nationalist and Islamic forces vis-a-vis these moves. Not that these moves are now at an end. Only if these moves are consolidated by an actual retreat from gunboat diplomay will it be possible to call the retreat a virtue.

As for the moves of the parties that speak Arabic, specifically those made by Saddam's regime, their evil intentions have been laid bare by demagoguery. These moves aim at the rancor of the tyrants of Baghdad spreading to other Arab regimes and the Iraqi and Arab man of the street. Hate, however, never produces a solution or protects Arabism or saves a homeland. Rancor cannot possibly be peddled and marketed regardless of how it is wrapped up. This hatred is eventually bound to rebound to its movers and the indications are that this process has begun.

So these military or demagogic moves that are now gradually taking a back seat, have added nothing beyond being new complicating factors. As demagoguery and saber-rattling recede, a new picture emerges paving the way for well-intentioned and constructive efforts that have the good of Lebanon and its people at heart. Syria was never bothered by the hysteria and noise out of a conviction that froth will inevitably disappear and substance will remain. The relative calming of things proves the validity of the Syrian stand and the soundness of the approach adopted by nationalist and Islamic forces. This imposes on Syria, more than any other party, a heightened sense of commitment to its approach to a solution to the Lebanese crisis. If a reminder is needed, Syria stands for a solution based on the emergency Casablanca summit resolutions and giving every possible assistance to the Arab tripartite committee toward an implementation of these decisions. While Syria will firmly adhere to its position, it will show every flexibility needed to implement the Casablanca summit. Given enough goodwill and good faith, these resolutions should guarantee Lebanon a solution promoting the country's Arab character, unity, and political reforms.

Afghanistan

Najibullah's Message Marks Air Forces Day

LD2508204689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Message from President Najibullah, Armed Forces Supreme Commander, on the third anniversary of Air Force Day]

[Text] Dear friends, leaders, and personnel of the Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan:

I am delighted to convey the best wishes and sincere congratulations of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and myself to you, the courageous pilots and personnel of the air and air defense forces on the occasion of Air Force Day.

Some 60 years ago the pioneers of the Air Force of Afghanistan opened a new chapter in the history of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan by their first flight from Sherpur airfield.

The country's Air Force has played a notable part during the recent decade in strengthening and broadening of national sovereignty, the defense of the people, and by safeguarding the air and land of the proud and common home of Afghans.

You mark this day at a time when the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are resolutely and courageously defending the territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and life of each proud Afghan. At this very moment courageous pilots of the Air Force are engaged in defending the homeland and in struggling against the aggressors and warmongers.

By your indefatigable work and activities you have accomplished what you promised your people when taking the oath to defend the homeland and people.

Most of the proud epics of the Air Force personnel in accomplishing their duties, either individually or jointly, employing initiative, ability and a necessary relentlessness, are and will be the cause of pride for the present and coming generations of the country. During the accomplishment of your duties you have proven that Afghans love their country and independence. During this period, the pilots, engineers, and technicians of the Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan have accomplished their duties under any circumstances with courage and bravery, with devotion, with self-sacrifice, with a high perception of patriotism, displaying a high level of discipline, and with a high perception of national responsibility vis-a-vis the life and death of the people of Afghanistan.

Nowhere in Afghanistan will the people or the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan forget the accomplishments and bravery of the personnel of the Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan. Your courage and heroism—the eternal epics of the contemporary history of our country—are now included in national songs, and will be entered in the valuable history of the people of Afghanistan.

The successful transportation and combat operations of the Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan in Nangarhar, Khowst, Qandahar, Ghazni, Herat and other regions of the country helped bring about serious impulses for the defense of the homeland and to raising the morale of the personnel of the Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Personnel of the Air Force and free-born sons of the people of Afghanistan: The best celebration on this Air Force festival is active participation in the defense of the homeland and restoration of peace and tranquillity for the people of Afghanistan. The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan is fully satisfied that the personnel of the Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan will maintain active defense of the air and land—the common homeland of Afghans—with joint efforts, vigilance and awareness, with professional expertise, unity, and high military order, which are the characteristics of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, particularly the Air Force personnel, and thus they cut the hand of the aggressors from the life and property of the people of Afghanistan.

In these difficult and destiny-making days you defend the policy of national reconciliation and the life of the people. Your every flight and successful action is not only a military gain; it will also bring about feasible grounds for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and save the lives of our compatriots.

Your heroic actions and those of all personnel of the Armed Forces of the country prepare the ground for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and the cessation of war in Afghanistan.

The government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the country assure you that each self-sacrificing action by the sons of the homeland in the defense of the nation will be appreciated by the patriotic people of Afghanistan.

I have decided to increase, as far as possible, the all-round ability of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces to care for the personnel of air and air defense forces.

In joining in the celebrations of the country's pilots in marking their festival, once again I congratulate all personnel of the air and air defense forces, wherever they are engaged in the service of the homeland and people. I wish you and your families and relatives good health and safety.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces
[Dated] 25 August 1989

Defense Minister Attends Air Force Day Rally

LD2508205289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The third anniversary of the air forces was marked today during a grand ceremony held in the conference hall of the Air Force and Air Defense Force. BAKHTAR's military section reports that the meeting was attended by Defense Minister Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, a delegation of the Defense Ministry leadership, the commander and leader of the Air Force and Air Defense Force, and veteran officers and personnel of the air forces. At the beginning of the meeting the head of political affairs of the air forces spoke briefly about Air Force and Air Defense Force Day and the duties of the air forces in the defense of the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Shahnawaz Tanay congratulated the personnel on Air Force and Air Defense Force Day and added: Airmen's day is being celebrated in our country this year at a time when the extent of the aggression by the United States and Pakistan against our country has reached greater proportions and when Pakistan, ignoring the Geneva accords, has started direct aggression against our country.

The defense minister added that today the personnel of the Armed Forces and the Air Force and Air Defense Force of the Republic of Afghanistan have been transformed into the most important trench for defense of the independence and territorial integrity of the country. The best youth of the country—who have rich war experiences, expertise, and high level military knowledge—attack and inflict crushing blows on the internal and external enemies of our country who continue armed struggle against our people with the support of the United States, Pakistan's military men and the Saudi Wahhabis.

The defense minister, having praised the heroism and bravery of the personnel of the Air Force and Air Defense Force in defending the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country, drew attention to their historic mission to the homeland and people in ensuring a nationwide peace. [passage omitted]

Shanawaz Tanay then presented medals and decorations of the Republic of Afghanistan which had been approved on this occasion were presented to personnel of the Air Force and Air Defense Force. At the end of the meeting a message from the airmen of the country addressed to President Najibullah, supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, was read by Major General 'Abdul Fatah, commander of the Air Force of the Army of the Republic of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Addresses People, Forces in Jalalabad

LD2808224389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Speech by President Najibullah in Jalalabad; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] The people of Afghanistan do not forget your resistance, steadfastness, and heroic defense. The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, despite the problems and difficulties resulting from interference and aggression from abroad, following Jalalabad day and night and [passage indistinct] despite the fact that in those days a shortage of (?goods) was felt and the extremists were blocking roads. The airport of Jalalabad was not suitable for aircraft to land. The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces tried to take comprehensive measures to defend Jalalabad.

Victory in the defense of Jalalabad, which is undoubtedly the [words indistinct] of the people of Afghanistan, (?belongs) to all the people of Afghanistan, particularly to the courageous people of Nangarhar and the brave defenders of Jalalabad. It could perhaps be said that it was gained as a result of good organization. In order to have good organization, it is necessary to have unity and solidarity. The sacrifice and courage the defenders of Jalalabad displayed, is [words indistinct]. No matter how excellent an organization is, if there is no unity and solidarity then no task can be carried out. Breaking the siege of Jalalabad and carrying out a counterattack and the capturing of new lines to the Samar Kheyl and Sorkh Dewal areas is the result of the unity and solidarity of the people of Afghanistan, the brave people of Nangarhar, and the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] members, and the high morale and discipline of the units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan stationed in Jalalabad who were able to carry out the orders and guidelines of the Armed Forces high command and thus inflict the heaviest losses on the aggressors. [applause]

Esteemed friends, you must assess the positive and negative experiences of Jalalabad. All factors and experiences of Jalalabad, the successes and failures and other factors which were influential in the defense of Jalalabad should be assessed objectively so they will parovide practical lessons for the future. You should study the defense of the burning trenches of Jalalabad. It was not a mechanized, simple defense. The strength and unity of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar, the support and cooperation of the noble and courageous people in Nangarhar—all had certain influences.

It is possible that some will think the active defense and the heroic stand of the Armed Forces will influence the process of national reconciliation which is continuing in all the directions and all dimensions.

[Najibullah begins to speak in Pashto] I mean that some might say that because we have won a victory in Jalalabad, then we are not going to pursue the policy of reconciliation and we are going to be arrogant. No, we are not going to do this. Our policy for any human being who lives in this country, whether he fights on this side or on that side, is that we do not want one more man to die. This is our aspiration.

The defense in which we are engaged is to show the other side that the path of war that they pursue is a futile path. Let us learn from this and follow the path of peace, to follow the path as God says: Peace is goodness. [applause]

[Najibullah speaks in Dari] I would like to categorically state before you that we are not retreating even one step from the policy of national reconciliation.

Reconciliation is the main reason for Afghanistan's credibility nationally and internationally. This policy is the manifestation of realism and is a scientific vision of flexibility and the healthy knowledge of socio-economic and political developments in our country. The division of power, talks with the opposition, and the slogan of the concentration of forces are not temporary tactical issues, but they guarantee the protection of the independent, nonaligned, united, and powerful Afghanistan. One should bear in mind that reconciliation, understanding, and negotiation with the opposition and the slogan of the concentration of all political forces or the majority around a specific platform emanates from the objective necessity and the real situation in the country. Sooner or later the opposition forces, if they think about the future interests of Afghanistan, if they think about the interests of the future of the people of Afghanistan, will follow the path of reconciliation. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan firmly believes that the participation of opposition political organizations and their sharing of power compose a realistic and principled issue for ensuring peace and calm in the country.

In the meantime, however, resistance and active defense against warmonger extremist forces are also legitimate and natural. This is a matter of reconciliation [words indistinct]. We clearly noticed that now there are two forces in our country: the supporters of peace and the warmongers. The ground is ripe for the strengthening of the peace supporters' front. Now, where will one stand? No doubt in the position of peace which guarantees the life of our compatriots and the interests of each Afghan individual and which leads to the socio-economic development of the country.

[Words indistinct] therefore the hot defense of the Jalalabad trenches was not the continuation of war but it ensured the integrity of national reconciliation before warmongers and saboteurs. Therefore, we reject aggressive war from the point of view of our military doctrine and that is why we propose peace and the cessation of war in various levels. Despite the fact that the Republic of Afghanistan's proposals for ensuring peace and putting an end to the war are there, we have proposed a new mechanism which [words indistinct] dialogue and negotiation between the government of the Republic of Afghanistan and all organizations and Afghans who want peace and an end to war in Afghanistan. Any country in which the opposition proposes to conduct these meetings will be acceptable to the Republic of Afghanistan. We are ready for individual or collective negotiations with them. [break in reception]

An all-round peace conference will be convened in the country with the negotiaters' participation. This conference will set up a leadership council which will reflect the ideas of various political groups and will declare a comprehensive cease-fire. The leadership council will form a broad-based coalition government which will demonstrate the interests of the forces in the leadership council. Similarly, a commission will be set up to [words indistinct] and convene the traditional Grand Assembly of the people of Afghanistan for the approval of the constitution.

It should be pointed out that in the ratification of the constitution, the opinions, proposals, and considerations of all the forces and refugees (?should) be taken into account. After the ratification of the constitution and the law on election to parliament, the way to elections and the formation of the parliament will be (?prepared). The results of the elections bring about a government which would be free of threat and pressure. [Passage indistinct] has no result but the creation of an atmosphere of terror and intimidation. Continuing to seek a military solution is to continue the killing of Afghans. The responsibility for following such a path rests with the backers and followers of this solution.

[Words indistinct] of Jalalabad is not solely that of the defenders of the Republic of Afghanistan. Availing myself of this opportunity, I once again address the opponents and armed commanders inside the country and ask them to learn from the bloody events of Jalalabad. They should realize that the enemies of our homeland have armed them in order to destroy our common home, our beloved Afghanistan, using the Afghans themselves.

The best way to reach peace and cease the bloodshed is by a cease-fire and to begin talks and negotiations among the Afghans. Talks do not mean the surrender of the one side to the other side. One could reach an accord during negotiations even if differences remain. As far as it depends on the government of the Republic of Afghanistan [words indistinct], we do not ask the commanders of the opposition forces [words indistinct].

The most important [words indistinct] of the people of Afghanistan is to put an end to war. [applause] Because a war in which the blood of Muslims and Afghan brothers is shed can not be called a jihad. Whose homes are hit by weapons and missiles? Unfortunately, children of our Afghan brothers and sisters, our fellow villagers,

who share the same homeland, the same religion and the same culture, are being eliminated.

We expect that the commanders inside the country, by ceasing the fratricidal war and restoring security in their regions, to serve the will of Almighty God and put an end to war and bloodshed, thus ending the pain and mourning of their Muslim brothers.

Dear friends, you have passed very hard days. Every day and every moment of the past 6 months was a serious test for you. Hours, days, and the critical months which the extremists and their international protectors had thought were the last for the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, have gone by.

Your decisive and resolute defense of Jalalabad and as a whole the resistance by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan against the joint forces of the extremists and the aggressors, has proved the ability of [word indistinct] of the Republic of Afghanistan and of patriotic Afghans. [applause] However, as a result of foreign interference and insistence on [words indistinct] and warmongering stands, a difficult situation remains before us. Aggression and intervention, psychological and propaganda warfare, the blocking of roads and highways, and missile attacks by the extremists on a number of cities and centers are continuing and have been intensified. Notwithstanding the stance a large number of Western countries, realistic circles have raised their voices for a political and peaceful solution to the situation in Afghanistan.

Warmongering circles are talking about increasing the supply of weapons to the opposition armed forces. They are clearly instigating terrorism against the people of Afghanistan and against the material and moral wealth of our country. While we appreciate the sense of realism and the feeling of responsibility of realistic international circles, we strongly condemn the warmongering statements against Afghanistan. War has brought great pains for the people of Afghanistan. The people of our country express their protest and hatred against warmongerers wherever they may be. You have witnessed that based on the command of foreigners, the war in Afghanistan is continuing in our country. On both sides our Afghan brothers are being killed. The extremists should know that by continuing the war they cannot realize the designs of the enemies of Afghanistan and that of the people of Afghanistan. The Republic of Afghanistan considers it its natural right to defend resolutely the life of its people. The defense of Jalalabad, Qandahar, Khowst, the highways, and every inch of the sacred soil of Afghanistan is our and your national, Islamic, and patriotic duty. [applause]

We should be ready for every kind of difficult days. Joining efforts between forces, consolidating positions and trenches, conserving in all circumstances, utilizing our own possibilities, reserving ammunition and food, and the timely utilization of combat techniques are the tasks before us. Assistance to those who have suffered in the war should be expanded and their living conditions should be enhanced. Preserving party unity and solidarity and preserving unity between the party and the people, and explaining the objective experiences obtained in the hot trenches of war are among the important tasks which remain before you.

Carrying out talks and negotiations with the armed opposition groups to maintain peace and end the war, are one of the main and irreversible principles and duties of the Republic of Afghanistan. Your role in broadening and exercising this policy and exposing the ugly face of war for your compatriots are very fruitful and valuable. Because national reconciliation and the maintenance of peace and work and life in the conditions of peace are well appreciated by those [words indistinct] and who have seen war up close and have felt its consequences.

If on the one hand the Republic of Afghanistan invites all opposition forces to peace and reconciliation, on the other hand it is not surrendering to the attacks and military pressure of the enemy and is engaged in active, legitimate, and heroic defense. The active and strong defense such as what you have seen in Jalalabad,brings the process of peace closer. During the past 6 months the courageous defense by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan of Jalalabad, Khowst, Qandahar, and the highways showed that the path of a military solution is not a winning way. Those who were counting the minutes to the collapse of the Republic of Afghanistan should know that the Republic of Afghanistan, the people and Armed Forces of the country, are defending and will defend peace and a peaceful life in Afghanistan. [applause] They will never surrender to the military forces of Pakistan, the Saudi Wahhabis and their international protectors; on the contrary, they will teach them a lesson. [applause]

Dear friends and esteemed elders, the life and identity of a free, independent, nonaligned, and united Afghanistan has been entrusted into your hands. In the hardest phases in the life of nations, only those who have succeeded are those who have defended their national interests, their people, and their homeland. Difficult and painful days pass, but the names of those who have shown resistance, steadfastness, and courage will be enshrined in the pages of history. [applause]

I am completely confident that the people of Afghanistan are going to be victorious in the cause of the national reconciliation policy which is the guarantor of the interests of the Afghans. To every one of you, to all the heroic troops, NCO's, and the courageous officers of Jalalabad, who are at this very moment engaged in defending their trenches, I wish health, success, and greater victories, and I tell them [passage indistinct]. [applause]

Najibullah Interviewed on Peace Plan

LD2808195689 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1834 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Zagreb, August 28 (TANJUG)—Afghanistan's President Muhammad Najibullah proposed in an interview to the Yugoslav weekly DANAS that a new peace conference on Afghanistan should be held with the participation of India, China, Iran, Pakistan, the United States and the Soviet Union.

In particular, the two superpowers should give Afghanistan the good guarantees of future, he said.

In the interview, to be published in Tuesday's issue of the weekly, Dr Najibullah said he expected that the nonaligned summit in Belgrade early in September would uphold a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan problem. He said he would ask the nonaligned countries to "adopt a solution asking Pakistan and the United States to fulfil the obligations under the Geneva accord on Afghanistan."

Dr Najibullah said the Pakistani government should play a major role in settling the crisis. Unfortunately, he added, "there have been no new initiatives of a constructive nature from Pakistan."

Dr Najibullah also hoped that Iran would play a "greater role in seeking a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan problem."

Noting that his country favours a peaceful solution, he warned that his forces "would have to defend the freedom and territorial integrity of Afghanistan" if the opposition groups in and around the country continue to receive outside support.

He said that "all Afghanistanis should take part in the process of restoring peace. "Ex-king Zahir Shah may play a major role in this regard, but so far he failed to show much interest in an all-nation (?reconciliation)," said Dr Najibullah, pointing out that the ex-king, like all other Afghanistanis, is free to return to the country.

On the importance of elections to the new national assembly, Dr Najibullah said that so far the opposition did not show much interest in the proposals of his government because, he remarked, "it is interested only in power and how to seize it."

Najibullah Meets With Congressional Candidate

LD2808180889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with Bill Quraishi, a U.S. congressional candidate, at Gol Khanah Palace, site of the presidency. During the meeting topics of mutual interest were discusse.

Defecting Journalist on 'Corruption, Nepotism'

BK2808115789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 28 (AFP)—A senior Afghan journalist who defected two weeks ago to the Pakistan-based Afghan rebels said here Monday that "corruption and nepotism" were at a peak within the ruling Communist Party in Kabul.

Mohammad Shafeq Wijdan, who was serving as co-editor of the daily JAMHURIAT before his defection, told a news conference that "everything is in plenty for party members and KHAD (secret police) officials amidst scarcity for the vast majority" of Kabul citizens living in "miserable conditions."

Mr. Wijdan, speaking in Persian, said that public money was being embezzled and officials of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) drove in latest-model bullet-proof Mercedes cars and lived in "huge mansions with imported furniture."

When asked why he waited so long to defect to the mujahidin, Mr. Wijdan said: "I had some family problems" and "thought that I could point out the blunders of the regime through the press." He said he wrote an article for the weekly "HAFTA" suggesting placing ballot boxes in the streets to poll public support of the PDPA or the mujahidin. The issue containing the article was banned, he said.

Mr. Wijdan was a delegate from the Association of Journalists to the Kabul regime-sponsored Loya Jirgah (assembly) which elected Najibullah as president and approved the Constitution in December 1987. He opposed the idea of convening another Loya Jirgah, saying that given the existence of the mujahidin interim government (AIG) there was no need for another assembly. He called for the AIG to be installed in Kabul to end the Afghan conflict. The AIG was formed in nearby Rawalpindi on February 23 by a 440-member council of Afghan representatives from mujahidin-controlled areas of Afghanistan and refugees abroad.

Hekmatyar Confirms Commander Captured by Rivals

BK2908003689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1826 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 28 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction of mujahidin leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar confirmed Monday at a press conference that one of its commanders had been captured by a rival guerrilla group.

The deputy chief of Hezb, 'Ubaydallah Sirat, who returned here after a meeting with Mr. Hekmatyar in eastern Afghanistan's Paktia Province, said Sayyed Jamal had been captured by the Jamiyat-e Eslami group in Takhar Province, in northeastern Afghanistan.

Mr. Jamal has been accused of leading an ambush on July 9 in the same province in which 30 Jamiyat guerrillas, including six commanders, were killed sparking the ongoing fued between the two groups.

Mr. Sirat alleged that "300 mujahidin" were killed by Jamiyat in clashes over the last few weeks as the infighting spread to nearby Badakhshan Province. He also accused Jamiyat of "breaching a pact" not to take retaliatory action until a judicial body formed over two weeks ago by the mujahidin provisional government to investigate the July ambush had reached a decision on what happened.

Jamiyat military chief Sayyed Muhammad Ayub Friday denied that Jamiyat commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud's forces and those of the Hezb had clashed in Badakhshan, saying Jamiyat forces had been operating against government troops for the last 10 days. Mr. Ayub acknowledged, however, that the Jamiyat several days ago launched "combing operations" in Takhar intended to "neutralize" commander Jamal.

The Jamiyat and the Hezb are among seven Sunni Muslim resistance groups based in Pakistan which have been fighting Kabul's forces in a 10-year guerrilla war. Although theoretically allied under a provisional government formed six months ago in Pakistan, the two rival groups are engaged in a struggle for influence in northern Afghanistan, diplomats in Pakistan have said.

In a message received in Peshawar Friday by his brother Ahmad Zia, Commander Mas'ud said he had "captured alive" 300 Hezb guerrillas, including "a number of commanders," adding that Commander Jamal had been captured Tuesday by residents of Sadbargan, a town which he had transformed into a military base.

Kabul Using New Soviet Medium-Range Rocket

BK2908103889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 29 (AFP)—The Afghan Armed Forces have started using a new type of medium-range, Soviet-supplied rocket against the mujahidin resistance, diplomatic and military sources said Tuesday [29 August].

A government spokesman had Monday said that loud explosions heard on the outskirts of the capital were not the normal sound of incoming mujahidin rockets, "but a new sound in Kabul." Tuesday, the same spokesman declined comment on the weapons, though they were reportedly shown briefly Monday night on Afghan television.

Diplomats said they understood the new rocket was medium-range and could be fired at targets anywhere from 10 to 80 kilometres (6-50 miles) distant. They said it appeared to have been fired from outposts around Kabul for the first time Friday. There was no immediate information on what type of warhead the new weapon carried.

The Soviet Union gave the Afghan Army long-range Scud-B missiles before it pulled back its troops from Afghanistan in February this year. Scores of Scud-B missiles were fired from Kabul in defence of eastern Jalalabad city after it came under heavy mujahidin attack in March. The Afghan Army is also equipped with short-range rockets.

"We understand this (new weapon) was supplied to the Army to fill the gap between long- and short-range (rockets)," said one diplomat.

The United States said last month that it was supplying the mujahidin with new weapons, including Spanish 120-millimeter (74.4 inches) mortars designed to crater airport runways and with cluster bombs to counter what it charged was an "unprecedented" step-up in the flow of Soviet arms to Kabul.

In early August, the government here said that Moscow had agreed to supply the Afghan Air Force with MiG-29 fighters.

Mujahidin Down Plane, Capture KHAD Agents

BK2808132389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Afghan mujahidin are reported to have shot down a Kabul regime fighter plane in the southern province of Helmand on Thursday [24 August] last. The plane was hit by a surface-to-air missile, killing the pilot and other crew on board. According to another report, the mujahidin captured a gang of KHAD agents—the Afghan secret service—who were engaged in looting the civilians in Qandahar city.

Mujahidin Kill 60 Soldiers in Khowst District

BK2908024289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] More reports have been received on heavy fighting between mujahidin and the Kabul forces around Khowst in eastern Afghanistan. Reports say rockets were fired on and clashes occurred around Khowst. Mujahidin say that they have captured a number of posts since Thursday [24 August] and have killed 60 Kabul soldiers. The Kabul regime says that mujahidin have captured only one post.

Mujahidin Down Warplane, Capture Qandahar Post

BK2908083689 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin shot down a warplane of the Kabul regime in Qandahar Province yesterday. The mujahidin also captured a security post in the area. Heavy fighting was reported near Qandahar airport, where, the mujahidin say, they killed 100 Kabul regime troops. The airport itself was subjected to missile attacks which hit the terminal and radar installations.

In another operation, the mujahidin damaged a grid station in Qandahar. Reports of fighting have also been received from Badakhshan, Baghlan, and Nangarhar Provinces. In Nangarhar, the mujahidin killed several Kabul regime troops, when a deputy commander of the 11th Division of the Kabul regime forces was wounded.

India

Gandhi Sees 'Grave Threat' From Communal Forces

BK2808161889 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1515 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The prime minister has cautioned the people against designs of communal forces who, he said, have joined hands with forces of disintegration. Rajiv Gandhi said the new combine constitutes a grave threat to the nation and people must crush it. He was addressing a public gathering in Old Delhi today.

Earlier, the prime minister laid foundation stone of a transit lodging complex for hajj pilgrims.

Referring to Babri Masjid and Ramjanambhoomi issue [of both Hindu and Muslim community claiming a shrine in Uttar Pradesh], Gandhi regretted that while all parties concerned have agreed to accept the court verdict on the matter, a particular communal party refuses to accept it. He said the country will have to be saved from such forces who want to create violence in every street in the name of religion. Tracing secular history of the country, Gandhi pointed out that India derives its real strength from its diversity which will be further strengthened. He expressed the government's determination to wipe off artificial divide [as received] between various communities and build a strong India. The prime minister said national goals like removal of poverty and unemployment remain still incomplete and minorities have a major role to play in this. He wanted women from these communities to come to the fore front of the national life.

Kashmir Chief on Pakistani Arms to 'Terrorists'

BK2908034289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said that no one will be allowed to separate Kashmir from India. Addressing a public gathering in old Delhi yesterday, he said that if necessary, he is prepared to shed his blood to prevent the disintegration of the country. The chief minister called upon the people from all sections to stand behind the government in the fight against terrorists.

Congratulating Mr Rajiv Gandhi on being the first prime minister to have extended a hand of friendship to Pakistan, he said the Pakistan Government should reciprocate by stopping the supply of arms to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Farooq Abdullah ruled out the demand of Union Territory [federally-ruled state] status for Ladakh, saying that it is not any solution to eradicate poverty from the area. However, scheduled tribe status will soon be granted to the people of the region, the chief minister added.

Referring to his meeting with representatives of journalists, Dr Abdullah said his government is not against freedom of the press, but he cannot allow anybody to help the subversive elements. He urged all sections of the people to cooperate with the government in dealing with the antinational and secessionist elements.

Also, Dr Farooq Abdullah had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi yesterday. The law and order situation in the state and the steps taken to check the activities of the antinational elements were discussed. The chief minister also met the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, who assured him all central assistance to maintain law and order. The minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mr Namgyal, was also present at these meetings.

One Killed, 20 Injured in Leh, Curfew Imposed

BK2708145089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] A curfew was imposed in Leh town of Jammu and Kashmir at noon today after violent mobs clashed with the police and set the tehsil [revenue collection] office ablaze. Police opened fire after lathi [baton] charge and tear gas shells failed to disperse the miscreants. One person was killed and about 20 people, including some police personnel, were injured. Army has been asked to stand by.

Meanwhile, divisional commissioner of Kashmir, Mr M.S.Pandit, told our Srinagar correspondent that two Kalashnikov rifles, three hand grenades, four kilograms of explosives, and three detonators have been recovered from the Khaniar area of Srinagar city.

Nationwide, Opposition-Called Strike Day Nears

Government Prepares

BK2808033889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The government has taken all necessary measures to maintain law and order and ensure smooth functioning of public services in the proposed bundh day [strike day on 30 August] called by some political parties. The railways have taken special steps to meet any situation that might arise during the proposed bundh.

The minister of state for communications, Mr Giridhar Gomango, has written to state governments to provide full security to all telecom and postal staff in order to ensure proper functioning of the postal services.

The minister of state for rural development, Mr Janardhana Poojary, has said: A day's bundh could mean a loss of 600 crore rupees worth of production for the country and serve no purpose except to affect the interests of the poor.

The Madhya Pradesh chief minister said in Khandwa that the proposed bundh is being carried out on the instructions of some foreign powers to weaken the central government.

The chief minister of Goa has assured the people that government machinery is fully geared to meet any situation on the bundh day.

Addressing a large public meeting at Rourkela, the Orissa chief minister, Mr J.B. Patnaik, asked the people to ignore the bundh. Similar reports are coming in from different parts of the country about the steps taken by the state governments, industrial organizations and commercial establishments to maintain normal working.

In Delhi, the lieutenant governor, Mr Romesh Bhandari, has announced that full protection will be accorded to all those proceeding to attend their vocations. Several employees' organizations, including those in the fields of banking and transport, have decided to maintain normal services. The All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation has said that it would educate the people about the disadvantages of the bundh.

Preparations Updated

BK2908085989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Elaborate arrangements have been made to maintain law and order and ensure smooth functioning of public services on the proposed bundh [strike] tomorrow, called by some opposition parties. Specific instructions have also been issued to the state governments to provide full security to all telecom and postal staff to ensure proper functioning of the postal services.

The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, has said that the center would not remain a silent spectator, if the opposition-ruled states failed to maintain law and order on the bundh day.

Official sources in New Delhi said, a bundh could mean a loss of 600 crore rupees worth of production for the country and loss of services in the public sector to the tune of 300 crore rupees. Any disruption in the rail services alone will cause a loss of 30 crore rupees to the exchequer.

Reports received from the state capitals say, law and order machinery have been fully geared to meet any eventuality. Police personnel are guarding vital installations and additional forces have been rushed to vulnerable areas. Official sources in New Delhi said the center is in touch with all state governments to ensure the smooth functioning of public utility services and government offices throughout the country. In Delhi, the lieutenant governor has announced that full protection will be accorded to all those proceeding to work.

The surface transport minister, Mr Rajesh Pilot, has said that necessary arrangements have been made to run all transport services in the capital normally.

The railway minister, Mr Madhav Rao Sindia, has said that the train services will be maintained as usual in view of the decision of the employees unions not to participate in the bundh.

The Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr Motilal Vohra, has assured the people and traders of the state all protection. Addressing a meeting of senior officials at Bilaspur, he said efforts would be made to ensure normal life in the state.

The Gujarat chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhary, said in Gandhinagar that it will be ensured, no establishment is forcibly closed on the bundh day.

The minister of state for labor, Mr R.K. Malaviya, has appealed to the working community not to take part in the proposed bundh. In a statement in New Delhi today, he expressed the hope that the management should help workers perform their duties without any hindrance on the day of the bundh.

The agriculture minister, Mr Bhajan Lal described the proposed bundh as a political stunt.

Meanwhile, more reports have come in condemning the call for the bundh as politically motivated. The Bharat Sevak Samaj urged the people to oppose the bundh in the national interest. The National Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers and the National Federation of Defense Workers said the bundh will affect productivity and production and it is not in the interest of the working class. Several employees' organizations, including those in the field of banking and transport, have also decided to maintain normal services.

Security Forces on Alert

BK2908094489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 29 (AFP)—The federal government has deployed security forces across India to prevent violence anticipated during an opposition-called nationwide strike Wednesday [30 August], officials said here Tuesday.

Planeloads of paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) contingents have been flown from here to southern Tamil Nadu State, where authorities have said they expect trouble during the "bharat bandh" (shut India) strike.

Press reports here said large-scale clashes were expected between activists of the ruling party in Tamil Nadu and

the opposition there including Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, which is against the protest.

The organizers of the strike, the first to be called nationwide in many years, have demanded Mr Gandhi's resignation on corruption charges and fresh elections to Parliament, which are due by December.

Security forces have detained more than 25,000 people in Tamil Nadu ahead of the strike, according to official sources, and press reports here said there were further arrests Tuesday.

"We are also expecting trouble in (the states of) Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and security forces are under orders to take very stern measures to curb arson and clashes," a senior federal Home Ministry official said.

The paramilitary Bihar Military Police and CRPF were to be mobilised Tuesday across eastern Congress (I)-ruled Bihar, where the government has ordered police to detain "trouble-makers" ahead of the strike, the official added.

The Madhya Pradesh State administration in central India, also ruled by Mr Gandhi's party, has warned it would not allow "anti-social" elements to disrupt normalcy Wednesday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency reported.

The opposition Janata Dal (People's Party) has charged the Congress (I) with hiring thugs and musclemen to break the strike and has threatened to fight back if necessary.

The strike is expected to paralyse the six opposition-ruled states in India, although strike organizers have said that government offices in those states will remain open.

The authorities have also ordered New Delhi's 51,000-strong police force, backed by paramilitary troops, to quell any violence Wednesday. Police have erected about 300 barricades across the capital, officials said.

"We will not permit any violence and if necessary we will open fire," said Ajay Chadha, deputy commissioner of police in New Delhi's trouble-prone West District.

Similar security arrangements were being made in the Marxist-ruled eastern state of West Bengal, federal officials said.

The state-owned Doordarshan Television and All India Radio have launched a major anti-strike campaign, urging people not to join the protest.

The Youth Chapter of the Congress (I) has warned that it will prevent attempts by strikers to close businesses or paralyse road and rail traffic.

Health, fire and electricity departments have been exempted from the strike, which was called after the dramatic mass resignation from Parliament last month of more than 100 MP's [members of Parliament] from 12 opposition parties.

The resignations were in protest against the government's mishandling of a 1.3-billion-dollar artillery deal with the Swedish arms firm Bofors in which key officials in the government were accused of taking huge kickbacks.

In a bid to thwart the strike, the federal government has ordered its employees to report for duty Wednesday by, if necessary, spending Tuesday night in hotels and offices and has threatened to punish those who stay away.

Gandhi Orders Security for Opposition Leader

BK2608085789 Hong Kong AFP in English 0734 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 26 (AFP)—The Indian Government has ordered "very high security" provided to opposition stalwart Vishwanath Pratap Singh after he alleged that there were plans to kill him, newspapers reported Saturday [26 August].

The newspapers quoted Home Minister Buta Singh as saying that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had directed chief ministers to provide maximum security to Mr Pratap Singh with immediate effect.

The government's move followed a letter to Mr Gandhi by Mr Pratap Singh, who said he had learnt from "sources" in the prime minister's house that plans had been hatched for his "physical elimination" in "some accident."

He did not elaborate about the nature of the alleged accident.

THE TIMES OF INDIA and other newspapers reported that Mr Gandhi had directed the chief ministers to accord Mr Pratap Singh the status of a cabinet minister and give him "comprehensive" and "very high security."

"All intelligence agencies and inspector generals of police have been instructed accordingly," the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) news agency quoted Mr Buta Singh as saying.

There was no immediate reaction from Mr Pratap Singh, the opposition's shadow prime minister and president of the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) who was scheduled to address a public meeting in southern India Saturday.

Mr Pratap Singh, a former federal minister, was expelled from the ruling Congress (I) party in 1987 after he accused Mr Gandhi and his aides of taking huge kickbacks from the Swedish arms firm Bofors the previous year.

Mr Pratap Singh is also the convenor of the seven-party National Front.

16 Killed, 13 Injured by Punjab 'Terrorists'

BK2808010489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] In Punjab, a gang of terrorists gunned down 16 persons and injured at least 13 others at Kavarwala railway station in Malot area in Faridkot District last evening. Railway sources said the terrorists struck immediately when the Suratgarh-Bhatinda passenger train stopped at the flag station on the Ganganagar-Abohar section at about 2045. The train was on its way from Abohar to Bhatinda. The injured have been admitted to hospital at Malot. Security [authorities] in Punjab and neighboring states have been alerted following the incident.

Round-Up of 'Terrorist' Incidents

BK2808164289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMt 28 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The organizing secretary of the All India Sikh Students Federation-Manjit faction, Mr Kashmir Singh, was killed in a shoot out in (Verkha) suburban area of Amritsar city this morning. The shootout took place when the security forces raided Kashmir Singh's house in search of some terrorists who had taken shelter there. The police head constable, Mukhtiar Singh, was killed in the shootout. Kashmir Singh had been detained under the National Security Act for about 2 years. He was released only last year.

In another incident in the same district, a hardcore terrorist Balraj Singh, alias Tota, was killed. Another terrorist who is yet to be identified was also killed in the shootout.

Elsewhere in the state, a BSF [Border Security Force] driver, Bhim Bahadur, died on the spot when his jeep was blown up in a land mine explosion. The blast took place in the Kadian village in Batala suburb last night. [passage omitted]

Assam Tribals Decide To Suspend Agitation

BK2808161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The tripartite talks on the Bodo problem of Assam [Bodo tribals demanding autonomy] ended in New Delhi today with an agreement to hold further discussions to resolve the issue. The All Bodo Students Union [ABSU] has agreed to suspend its agitation and stop violence. The state government has said that it would take steps for suspension of preventive measures for creating a congenial atmosphere for the talks.

At today's talks the Assam government was represented by the chief minister, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, and his ministrial colleagues. A delegation of ABSU led by its president, Mr Upendra Brahma, participated in the discussions. The center was represented by the welfare minister, Dr Rajendra Kumari Bajpai.

A joint statement by the leaders of the three sides issued after 3 hours of talks said that the discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere and in a spirit of mutual understanding. The ABSU president suggested that the talks should be continued and held on a tripartite basis at the initiative of the Union Home Ministry. The state government said it has no objection if the center agrees to the suggestion. Dr Rajendra Kumari Bajpai said that while the Center will extend all help to find a solution to the problem, it has to be solved primarily by the state government.

In his opening remarks, Mr Mohanta said his government is prepared to make adjustments whereever required in the larger interest of the state to find a satisfactory solution acceptable to all sections of the people.

Later, talking to newsmen, Dr Bajpai indicated that a committee may be set up to study the memorandum submitted by the ABSU setting out their demands. She also gave an indication that further discussions are likely to be held sometime next month.

Low-Power TV Transmitter Commissioned in Orissa

BK2708044689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] A low-power TV transmitter was commissioned at Bhanjnagar in Ganjam District of Orissa yesterday. This is the 13th such transmitter in the state. It will cover nearly 4 lakh population, mostly belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Inaugurating the transmitter, the union minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr S. Krishna Kumar, asked the mass media to project the gains of developmental programs before the people.

Iran

Majlis Continues To Discuss Cabinet Nominations

Karrubi on Combating Inflation

LD2708121489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, began today's open session of the Majlis, by paying tribute to Martyr Reja'i, and Martyr Bahonar, on the anniversary of their martyrdom. The Majlis speaker expressed the hope that with the people's assistance the new Cabinet, after receiving the vote of confidence from the Majlis, would be able to begin combating inflation and price increases, as well as solving the people's problems.

Karrubi enumerated the services rendered by Mir Hoseyn Musavi's Cabinet, and thanked the Cabinet for its services during the past 8 years.

According to the Central News Unit report, in today's open session of the Majlis, in addition to the members of the new Cabinet, the president's deputies were also present, and a great number of domestic and foreign reporters, cameramen, and photographers compiled reports and took films and photographs on the trend of the Majlis debates in connection with the new Cabinet ministers.

Deputies Express Reservations

LD2808112689 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—Deputies continued their debate on members of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's proposed Cabinet Monday [28 August] with attention centered away from key ministries.

Several speakers pledged to vote for the entire Cabinet but most had reservations about one or more ministers.

'Abdollah Nuri who has been introduced as interior minister received support from a number of speakers, including a veteran deputy.

Hoseyn Harati, representing Sabzavar in Khorasan Province described Nuri, once a senior member of the Majlis Plan and Budget Committee, as a "sharp-witted planner with a wide angle."

None of the 22 deputies who have spoken so far have been critical of Nuri. About thirty are scheduled to speak by the end of the debate which must end in a vote Tuesday according to the law.

'Ali Akbar Velayati also received support for his appointment as foreign minister, with a number of deputies stressing the backing he received from the late Imam Khomeyni.

But the Foreign Ministry, headed by Veleyati since 1981, was criticized by Qorban 'Ali Salehabadi, deputy from Khorasan's capital Mashhad for employing Iranian graduates from abroad "who lacked a combatant and revolutionary record."

Proposed Information Minister 'Ali Fallahiyan was also termed unsuitable by one speaker.

Ebrahim Asgharzadeh, a Tehran deputy, said the former deputy information minister lacked the necessary planning ability to take over the job. He warned that under Fallahiyan the ministry could face "fast or slow motions."

At the end of the debate ministers will defend their programs and respond to criticism. It is likely that the president would also speak before a vote is taken for each minister.

About a third of the speakers so far said they would cast a positive vote for all members of the Cabinet which one deputy described as the strongest since the revolution.

"Looking at the programs... and in view of the sensitive times we are in, and the demand of the people of my constituency... I will give a vote of confidence to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government and I hope other deputies will do so too...," said Hoseyn Sobhaninia.

The deputy from Nishabur, also in Khorasan Province, was quoted last week that most deputies had agreed to endorse the entire Cabinet.

But the Cabinet debate has been focused mainly on two ministries, especially the candidate for the post of education minister, Mohammad 'Ali Najafi. Many deputies who have spoken so far urged the Majlis to reject Najafi, who has been education minister for only a year, but served as higher education minister in previous Cabinets.

The sensitivity towards the Education Ministry appears to stem from its vast responsibility. It serves 12 million students and lack of funds to provide new classes for the growing student population has brought pressures and complaints.

The president strongly backed Najafi in his opening speech Sunday noting that former Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi had praised Najafi's skills and advised that he continue his job.

Supporters in the Majlis said Najafi, a 38-year-old graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), had been confirmed by the Supreme Education Council and the Islamic Association in the Education Ministry.

'Abd-al-Hoseyn Vahaji has also come under considerable criticism for displaying "weak management" abilities as first deputy commerce minister. His opponents blamed much of the ministry's present problems on the present management, including Vahaji, and doubted whether he could change things for the better.

In past Cabinet debates the Commerce Ministry post has proven to be the toughest to get approval for. The ministry has been without a head for more than a year because the Majlis failed to clear at least two candidates.

Vote Set for 29 Aug

LD2808193989 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28. IRNA—The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) is to give a vote of confidence or no confidence to each and every member of President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet Tuesday. Several deputies Monday pointed to issues in relation with minister designates and solicited support for their viewpoints by the Majlis.

The deputies paid homage to one-time President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar who were martyred in a bomb blast at the Prime Ministry Building in Tehran in 1981.

Majlis Deputy from Tafresh Gholamreza Haydari expressed hope that President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani will rely more on the viewpoints of academic experts.

Majlis Deputy from Varamin Mohammad Qomi spoke in favor of Minster-Designate of Justice Mohammad Esmail Shushtari, and Minister of Construction Jihad Gholamreza Foruzesh. He also expressed hope that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will utilize better qualified people in key positions at his ministry so that present deficiencies will be overcome. He also criticized Minister Designate of Post, Telephone and Telegraph Mohammad Gharazi for putting "financial pressure on the people (for telephone subscription) in the name of voluntary contribution by the people."

Deputy from Tehran 'Abbas Duzduzani criticized the past performance of Minister Designate of Education Mohammad 'Ali Najafi saying his continued service in that office would adversely affect the operation of that ministry. He also disconfirmed the nomination of Dr Iraj Fazel, Hoseyn Mahlujchi, and Serajeddin Kazeruni as ministers of health and medical education, mines and metals and housing.

Majlis Deputy from Shir [name indistinct] lauded the nomination of Information Minister 'Ali Falkahiyan as the best person for the post. He said allegations in relation with his political attitudes before the Islamic revolution are lapse, and [words indistinct] disapprove the statements to the Majlis.

Deputy from Baft Dr Yadollah Eslami [name indistinct] nomination of Dr Iraj Fazel as minister designate of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education saying his previous performacne at the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education was marked by insuficiencies which would not uphold his designation for office of the Health Ministry.

Majlis Deputy from Arak Mahmud Astaneh confirmed Velayati as foreign minister and called on him to speed up his efforts in the direction of the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Deputy from Marvdasht Ahmad Kabiri expressed hope that the Iranian Foreign Ministry will not outrage the ideological and political principles set by the late leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

Majlis Deputy from Fasa Hedayatollah Aqa'i disconfirmed the nomination of 'Ali Fallahiyan as information minister, and suggested that "better known and better experienced people" be utilized for the post.

The Islamic Consultative Assembly is to vote on each and every member of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet Tuesday [29 August].

President To Respond to Remarks

NC2908081389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The Majlis will continue debating the competence of the ministers proposed by the president. The Central News Unit reports that the Majlis deputies' speeches on the competence of the ministers Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has proposed for his cabinet will also continue during today's Majlis session. The president and the prospective ministers will respond to the deputies' remarks.

President's Emphasis on Economy

LD2808112489 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's program of non-partisan economic, social and cultural development has been welcomed by a daily newspaper.

The English-language KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said the new Cabinet and its program point that it "intends to consolidate the Islamic Republic's political orientation by improving its economic health..."

The paper [said] that after changes in political institutions in a society produced their desired impact, a shift in attention to economic welfare will ensure their continued existence.

Iran is now at this critical stage and leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani "are determined to demonstrate to the world that the Islamic revolution is a multi-faceted and an organic revolution, capable of serving and elevating Iran."

It agreed that the nature of the Islamic revolution demands that "concurrent with political and cultural changes, measures be instituted to improve the economic strength of the society because of domestic or international expectations or fulfillment."

"At the time of its inception, a revolution needs to demonstrate its political presence with the changes that it imposes.... But following that...it gets to strengthen itself by trying to put into action its economic, cultural and social plans for a better quality of life," KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said.

Commentary on Cabinet, Challenges

NC2608101289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 89 p 3

[Akhundzadeh Basti commentary: "The New Cabinet, the Challenges Ahead"]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has finally produced the names of the members of this Cabinet and ended a period of rumor and speculation.

The nomination of certain ministers was contrary to the certain predictions that were made by different circles. Indeed in genius democratic society [as published] it is quite natural and one has to be vigilant and confident in choosing the right person for the right job.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's nominees are the best choices as far as the prevailing circumstances and compulsions are concerned. In fact, if the right persons are placed in the right jobs, a part of state obligation towards the society, that is social justice, is fulfilled.

The heroic people of Iran have witnessed in the past the catastrophic results of iniquity and wrong-doing of wrong persons in the wrong jobs.

Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, the newly appointed chief justice in the last Friday sermon has rightly said that everyone has to be susceptible and conscious of his own responsibility. One of the setbacks in the previous constitution was the shield of shared responsibility under which many could justify their wrong doings. The leaders of the Islamic Republic should not allow this to repeat. The judicial system must strongly stop and decisively prevent any discrepancies and offence in the system. Ayatollah Yazdi has rightly compared the judicial system with the heart of a person. The system which is an inherited one is unmannerly and sick. It has to be properly corrected. In fact, the proper conduct of judicial system would not only eradicate injustice and corruption but would help in turn the executive body particularly in the matters related to smooth conduct of foreign policy.

The success of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet partly lies in the success of Ayatollah Yazdi's task. Indeed they are complementary to one another.

Paper Foresees Cabinet Approval

LD2708075489 Tehran IRNA in English 0748 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—Majlis discussions on the Cabinet would almost undoubtedly result in all ministerial nominees passing "through the Majlis filter", a daily predicted Sunday.

"It is almost certain that the 22-member Cabinet proposed by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani will receive a vote of confidence from the Majlis," THE TEHRAN TIMES's editorial said quoting political observers.

It said it was thought two or three of the candidates would not be able to secure enough votes but the outlook had changed after leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's speech that this was not to the benefit of the nation.

The paper said now "it is expected that most of the Majlis deputies will give their vote of confidence to the proposed members of the Cabinet."

The paper quoted a senior Majlis deputy 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri saying that he would vote for all 22 ministers and claimed that "Nuri's vote usually carries another 100 votes with it."

In addition, it was likely that the president would get support from the Majlis speaker, Mahdi Karrubi, who leads the majority and "this will certainly boost the chances" for the approval of all the nominees.

The paper said the debate should prove attractive. It would show who would speak for or against one or more cadidates, and how President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would defend them, and finally who would get the highest votes.

Golpayegani, Araki Support Yazdi Appointment

LD2808181589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Yazdi, head of the judiciary, today met their eminences Grand Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Araki in Qom. In those meetings, after hearing Mr Yazdi's report, their eminences Grand Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Araki reiterated the importance of the judicial apparatus and its role regarding the country's security and stability. They also expressed their satisfaction with Mr Yazdi's appointment to his new responsibility. They further stressed: We pray for you so that you may be successful in this important task. Everyone should assist you in strengthening the fundamentals of Islamic principles in judicial affairs.

Yazdi Announces New Judicial Branch Appointments

Administrative Justice Courts Head

LD2708181489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judicial branch, has appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Abolfazl Musavi head of the administrative justice courts [divan-e edalat-e edari]. In the edict appointing Mr 'Abolfazl Musavi, it is stated: Taking note of the background of the knowledge that your excellency possesses and the fact that you are among the known teachers and jurisprudents of the Qom seminary, and the services you have rendered during the length of the Islamic revolution, especially in the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the legal and judicial committees, and recently in the judicial branch, you are appointed head of the administrative justice courts in accordance with the implementation of principle 173 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this edict, praise and appreciation has been expressed for the continuous and worthy services rendered by Mr Feyz Gilani.

Judicial Deputy, Adviser

LD2808181389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] In two separate edicts, Mr Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judicial branch, today appointed Doctor Hoseyn Mirpur to the post of judicial deputy [mo'avenat-e qaza'i] to the head of the judicial branch, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad-Reza 'Abbasifard, to the post of judicial adviser [moshaver-e qaza'i] to the head of the judicial branch.

Editorial on Prospects for U.S. Relations

NC2408112789 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Aug 89 pp 1,3

[Editorial: "Foreign Relations and Logical Stands"]

[Text] In addition to the fact that the remarks by the leader of the revolution about the United States, Israel, Iraq, and Lebanon are inspired by Islamic principles and ideals, these remarks are also based on genuine and obvious realities. Those who do not understand, or claim that they do not understand, the principles of the Islamic revolution, cannot understand the existing realities and reasoning based on realities. Thus, they cannot understand the reason why the Islamic Republic of Iran is—as the heads of Western governments and of the propaganda machinery of these governments claim—inflexible and unswayable.

The Islamic Republic of Iran does not follow the logic that the heads of the world's countries and governments should necessarily think like the Iranian nation and government in all cases, or that these heads should be endowed with Islamic characteristics to be able to establish or to expand relations with them. The logic of the Islamic Republic of Iran is that despite all their ideological, national, political, geographic, and other differences, governments and nations should at least accept the criteria that they themselves have accepted in international relations and be faithful to these criteria in practice to be able to regulate relations on the basis of these critera.

If the U.S. Administration has truly accepted the fact that kidnapping and abduction are crimes and contrary to international and humanitarian rules and principles, then why is it blatantly supporting the Israeli Government in its overt act of abduction? Why has it repeatedly vetoed the resolutions condemning Israel? If superpowers and impudent and haughty governments like the U.S. and British Governments have truly accepted the fact that terrorism is a crime that is overtly contrary to international norms and regulations, then why do they constantly support a government like Israel's which is the founder, fomenter, and standard-bearer of state terrorism in the Middle East?

Let them not allege that others were the fomenters and that the Israelis merely answered! Today many people, even in Europe and the United States, confirm the fact that Israel resorted to terrorism from the very start to strengthen its usurping and imposing presence. Islamic Iran pursues humanitarian logic and reasoning in its revolutionary protests against the U.S. Government. How can the Islamic Republic of Iran establish relations with a government that has frozen the Iranian nation's foreign exchange reserves and assets, a government which has been continuing this impudent act for years and which, despite everything, continues to speak from a bullying position and to make demands? How can Iran establish relations with a country whose soldiers downed an Iranian passenger plane with their missiles and martyred dozens of people and whose government simply ignored this great calamity?

Irrespective of principles, let us sit down and think if the existing facts and realities can pave the way toward relations! Is Islamic Iran justified in its warnings and protests when it has undeniable realities before it? Can all these be ignored and extortion paid to those who brawl like drunkard ruffians and rogues, consider the area reserved for their exclusive use, and see the world as their territory and fief?

Deputy Foreign Minister on British Relations

NC2608100589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 89 pp 1,6

[Report prepared by the TEHRAN TIMES City Desk]

[Text] It is unrealistic for Britain to expect a thaw in soured relations and establishment of better ties with Iran when it refuses to respect Islamic values and principles, a Foreign Ministry official here said.

Talking to the TEHRAN TIMES, Mahmud Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for America and Europe, said, "The first and the most essential criterion for the establishment of better relations with Iran was respect for Islam and Islamic principles, which the Islamic Republic views as the very fundament of its system."

"Yet the West, and Britain in particular, has over the past ten years never given the attention and respect due to such criteria which form the bedrock of the system established in the Islamic Republic of Iran following on the triumph of the Islamic Revolution." "You will see that this is the reson for the various fluctuations in relations between Iran and Western countries," he added.

Va'ezi said that relations with Britain could have been maintained "on a healthy footing and at more than superficial levels," if only Britain had not committed the unpardonable mistake of supporting Salman Rushdie and the publication of his diabolocal work giving offense to Islamic sentiments throughout the world. "The Islamic Parliament here was naturally outraged at British obduracy and had to take the decisions it took," he said.

"However, relations with Britain can be restored even today. But this must be conditional on the British Government being able to convince the members of the Islamic Majlis (Parliament) that its intentions are genuinely motivated and that it will be willing to respect Islamic principles and values," the deputy foreign minister explained.

He took the British media to task for carrying on propaganda on Roger Cooper, the British businessman now held at the Evin Prison in Tehran on spying charges. "They should be impartial", he said, asking, "Why does the Western press not write anything about Kurosh Fuladi, an Iranian Muslim who now languishes in a British prison on a 10-year sentence on baseless charges and alleged involvement in car explosion in London in 1982." "His father too dies during his prison term." Va'ezi added in extenuation of the Iranian government's refusal to allow Roger Cooper to attend his mother's funeral in Britain recently and which came in for criticism in the British press.

Roger Cooper is charged with spying during the Iran-Iraq war and only the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran can decide on his case based on the charges filed against him, Va'ezi explained.

Va'ezi, talking of Iran-Soviet relations called the recent moves towards closer mutual ties both "favorable and good and a token of the developing good relations between the two countries."

He said that the Soviet Foreign Minister for Economic Cooperation [title as published] Konstantin Katushev is expected to visit Iran next month and said the visit is a follow-up to recent agreements reached between the two countries. He was alluding to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's ground-breaking visit to the Soviet Union in June this year after the demise of the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

French Envoy Submits Message on Lebanon

LD2908110389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] During a meeting yesterday evening with Mr Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, the French ambassador in Tehran submitted a message from the French foreign minister to our country's foreign affairs minister on developments in Lebanon. According to the Central News Unit, during the meeting, Mr Va'ezi stressed that the solution of Lebanon's problems requires a series of political talks and that they cannot be solved by military threats.

Commentaries View French Action on Lebanon

'Military Interference' Seen

LD2608130789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpts] Greetings: "An Adjustment to the French Military Interference in Lebanon" is the title of our first commentary.

Once again the Government of France implicity admitted to the mistaken nature of its new policies in the Lebanon. According to experts, the new adjustment to the number and class of the French warships on the Lebanese coastline is interpreted as that country's political retreat from its former positions.

Paris had earlier announced that it was sending its warships to the Lebanese coast to protect the people of that country. It also said that it was also making arrangements for the transfer of 7,000 French nationals, or French-Lebanese, who have remained in that country. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the leaders of Lebanon's three main faiths—that is, the Sunnis, the Shiah and the Druzes—have said that in their view the French interference amounted to support for one party against the other party.

The totality of such threats [to fire on the French Navy]—with regard to the very important element of the Western hostages in Lebanon—provides one of the reasons why the Government of France has been thinking of reversing its hasty policies in Lebanon.

It is obvious that the interference by France, as a permanent member of the Security Council, cannot meet with indifference from other members, especially if such interference leads to a military encounter. In such a case, a situation arises that cannot be forseen.

Besides France, many countries in the region or outside the region could be trapped in a horrible quagmire from which only a very limited number of parties could emerge with pride.

Within such a framework, the Soviet Union has dispatched an official team on a special military mission to Beirut. Gennadiy Tarasov, the head of the said team has said that Moscow believes the crisis of Lebanon has no military solution.

It seems that the domestic and regional reaction toward the hasty French move, as well as the Soviet Union's political initiative, and the cautious silence by America have brought about a situation forcing the socialist government of France to make adjustments to the project on the dispatch of its ships to Lebanon.

Yet, in Lebanon—this war-torn country with half-ruined capital—nothing is predictable. A single interference, whether pre-planned and coordinated or a foolishness, can create yet another inferno whose control would be very difficult.

Show of Power Criticized

LD2808200589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Station commentary entitled: "Will France Continue Its Hasty Policy Toward Lebanon?"]

[Text] It seems that the French decision a few days ago in connection with adjustments to its naval forces sent to

Lebanese coastal waters and its resort to diplomatic solutions is a kind of revision of the past policies. However, what are the factors that influenced this revision? Since approximately 1 year ago, when the Lebanese state was left with no president and when, at the last moment, Amin Jumayyil chose Michel 'Awn as prime minister—contrary to the country's common custom—the French Government has always indulged in open acts of backing one side against the other in Lebanon. This policy was sustained in particular during the beginning of the current year when Michel 'Awn started his so-called war of emancipation from Syrian domination. However, after a while, the French Government showed by its actions that it had been mistaken and that it does not enjoy a favorable basis for all-embracing intervention in Lebanon. Therefore, it waited for a suitable opportunity.

During the last 2 months important events have occured in Lebanon that have forced Paris to support its allies once again by a show of its power. The worsening hostage crisis in the wake of abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd by the Zionist regime, the declaration of the tripartite Arab committee in connection with its failure—which was implicitly blamed on Syria—the formation of an extensive Islamic national front in Lebanon through the cooperation of Iran and Syria, and finally the attack by this front's forces on Suq-al Gharb and its threat to the red lines Michel 'Awn has drawn around himself [as heard] were the important factors that brought about the new conditions in Lebanon. France decided to send its naval forces to the Lebanese coastal waters to further weaken the Syrian role and to prevent the important attack by Islamic national forces on Michel 'Awn's forces.

Although, from the very beginning, the French officials termed that military move as a humanitarian act aimed at assisting and supporting the Lebanese people, in Lebanon the political leaders asked whether one can grant humanitarian aid with military ships and aircraft-carriers. The religious leaders and heads of Islamic national groups considered French policy to be one-sided and against the majority of the Lebanese people. Important organizations, such as the Hezbollah and Amal alongside the [word indistinct] socialist party, warned that they will not allow the French ships to come near the Lebanese coasts. This happened while a clandestine group, which has taken two Western hostages, announced that the French military intervention will endanger the lives of the hostages. On the other hand, the intervention by France, which is one of the permanent members of the Security Council, could not be viewed with indifference by the other members, in particular in view of the fact that the Soviet Union utilizes any opportunity to consolidate its position in the Middle East. Moscow has sent a delegation to Lebanon and Syria to emphasize that the Lebanese crisis has no military solution.

In the opinion of experts, along with the internal situation in Lebanon and the threat of Islamic national groups, the diplomatic efforts of the Soviet Union have also contributed to the retreat of the French naval fleet from Lebanese coastal waters.

Finally, it is said that despite the apparent alliance between France and America, there is latent competition between those two nations, in particular around Lebanon. They both have bitter experiences from Lebanon, in particular the destruction of some of their forces 6 years ago. However, it does not seem that America will allow France to gain what it itself has lost in Lebanon.

In particular after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and during the last 10 years, Lebanon has been the clear manifestation of the failure of Western powers' Middle East policies, in particular those of France and America. Under the present conditions, and in view of the factors mentioned, it seems remote that the Mitterrand government will carry out military aggression against Lebanon, and the new three-point plan of that country is so (?slow) that it seems unattainable. However, given Lebanon's daily changing conditions and alongside the regional treaties—in particular between the reactionaries—every possibility exists in Lebanon: a war-torn country whose people, in the wake of reign of Michel 'Awn, have no choice but to flee from massacre, demolition, and destruction.

Hizballah-Amal Unity Urged

NC2408123289 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 8 Aug 89 p 2

[B. Shari'atmadar commentary: "Amal and the Hizballah"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] With the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the changes that took place in the array of international forces, and the years of efforts by world arrogance to inflict blows on the combatant and revolutionary forces of the region or to push these forces toward a compromise in a bid to make the era calm and reestablish cultural and economic domination over countries of the Third World, Lebanon's face also completely changed.

The traditional bond of Lebanon's Shiites turned them into the active arm of the newly formed Islamic revolution. Moreover, the rise of Islam in the region heralded the defeat of nationalistic and leftist policies and of the Palestinians' retreats and compromises. It introduced a new development in ideas and in the approaches to the international system and to regional reaction. It propounded the idea of Islamic rule and encouraged factionalism to end in Lebanon, the power of parties to be reduced, and a spirit of mobilization to emerge. These were the factors that formed the new era. In short, the world struggle between faith and blasphemy has become the designating factor of the current era, and Hizballah is the offspring of such conditions and factors.

From the very beginning it was natural that it would be illogical and unattainable to have equal expectations

from Amal and Hizballah. However, it was also clear that ignoring either one was also dangerous and harmful.

Shiite Muslim forces supporting the revolution and rejecting Zionism definitely form the structure of Amal, and this structure puts the necessary tools for attaining the lofty ideals of the struggle between faith and blasphemy in the hands of the struggle's leaders.

Even though Amal and Hizballah leaders have differing approaches to the political problems of Lebanon, the region, and the world of Islam, traditional relations between the Shiites—which have today been transformed into a holy bond centered on the point from which the rays of the Islamic revolution emanate—could nevertheless fill the existing vaccuum and help both of them move in the same direction.

At a time of compromise, at a time when reaction is uniting and when solidarity between 'Awn's forces and Iraq on the one hand and Israeli and Arab reaction on the other hand is established, Lebanon's revolutionary forces should—despite all their differences—unite and continue on their path.

After the Damascus agreement and the Tehran conference, the joint Amal-Hizballah operations against the Israeli mercenaries in South Lebanon are a ray of hope. That these operations coincide with the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and the hostage crisis, which has robbed old colonialism of its sleep, has granted them a special appearance.

The candle that has been lit today in Jabal 'Amil is definitely an extension of the divine light emanating from the bright star of the Islamic revolution—Imam Khomeyni.

Even though he is not among us today, his path is nevertheless still followed by the Hizballah cells in the world.

Talks Resume With Japan on Petrochemical Project

LD2708145189 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—Iran and Japan resumed talks here Sunday for making final decisions on an unsettled multi-billion dollar Irano-Japanese Joint Petrochemical Project (IJPC) at Bandar Imam Khomeyni in south of Iran.

In its Sunday's issue, the afternoon daily 'KEYHAN' reported that head of the Japanese partner for IJPC has arrived here to hold talks with concerned Iranian officials. The Japanese official is to stay for four days, the daily noted.

The Japanese partner in the unfinished project had announced readiness to pay over a billion dollars to terminate the cooperation.

Iran National Petrochemical Company and Japanese firms led by Mitsui had invested 4.3 billion dollars in the project, 85 percent of which had been completed before being damaged during the Iraqi war.

The out-going Iranian minister for economic and financial affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani told Japanese Ambassador here Kunihiko Saito earlier this month that expansion of Tehran-Tokyo economic ties depended on the completion of the project.

Envoy Holds Talks at SFRY Foreign Ministry

LD2708101889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] In a meeting between our country's ambassador in Belgrade and the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry Deputy, emphasis was placed on the complete implementation of the UN Resolution 598.

According to IRNA Milivoje Maksic, Yugoslav deputy foreign minister, in a meeting with Mohammad Javad Asayesh-Zarchi our country's ambassador to Belgrade, said: Yugoslavia, as the president of the next Nonaligned Movement session, will recognize the complete implementation of the UN Resolution 598 to be the basis for the establishment of peace in the region and will bear in mind the corrections proposed to the drafts of the documents about Iraq's war with Iran, at the Nonaligned Movement heads' ninth meeting.

In this meeting bilateral relations and the drafts for the documents of the meeting, and in particular the document on Iraq's war against Iran, were studied.

The ninth meeting of the Nonaligned Movement heads' will open next week in Belgrade.

Pakistan

Bhutto Claims Nuclear 'Knowledge' Available

BK2908112189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1108 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 29 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Tuesday [29 August] Pakistan had sufficient nuclear "knowledge" to deal with any threat, but that it had no intention of using that knowledge.

"We do have the knowledge but I think there is a difference between knowledge and capability," Ms Bhutto said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"So we do have a knowledge, if confronted with a threat, to use," she went on.

"But we do not in the absence of any threat intend to use that knowledge," she said.

"In fact, as matter of policy my government is firmly committed to (nuclear) non-proliferation," the prime minister said.

She added that "any one-sided action by any country in the subcontinent can trigger off a nuclear arms race."

Ms Bhutto stressed that Islamabad had begun steps to open a "regional discussion" on the issue, but noted that India, with whom Pakistan has fought three wars since independence in 1947, "has some hesitations on this point."

She said such discussions were "the sure way to guarantee an end to the threat of nuclear proliferation" on the subcontinent.

Pakistan has been accused in the past of building an atomic bomb, but has always denied the allegations.

General Supports Nuclear Weapons Development

BK2908064989 Lahore JANG in Urdu
10 Aug 89 p 3

[Editorial: "A Suggestion That Deserves Attention"]

[Text] Retired General K.M. Arif, the former vice chief of the Army Staff, has said that national interests demand the development of a nuclear program on the highest priority basis and its logical corollary—the production of nuclear weapons. Addressing a seminar on the regional environment and the defense of Pakistan on 8 August, Gen Arif stressed that India fosters a strong urge to become a superpower in the future, and all its diplomatic and military efforts are devoted to accomplish this objective. He said that India has the fourth largest army, fifth biggest navy and the sixth biggest air force of the world. India's defense budget has soared to 153.74 billion [denomination not given]. It has made major strides in computer and nuclear technology and carried out successful tests of a number of missiles of various types. It has nuclear submarines and also six squadrons of aircraft which are capable of carrying nuclear warheads. India's attitude toward its neighbors is extremely aggressive. Furthermore, India considers Pakistan as her number one enemy. On the other hand, Pakistan has only one port and is entirely dependent on it for all its needs.

In view of these facts, Gen Arif advised us to judiciously utilize our resources and to give special importance to effective defense measures. We should also give a serious thought to the promotion of national unity and integrity in order to face the external aggression, he suggested. Pakistan can play an effective role in ensuring regional and global peace only when it has security, internal stability and a strong defense system. As a professional army man with a long career and deep experience at the senior level in the Pakistani Army, Gen Arif has keen insight into defense matters, and his analysis of Pakistan's defense requirements is based on solid and irrefutable facts. After all, it is the opinion of a professional army man and an experienced general, so this view cannot be termed the mere product of political or emotional perspective.

Despite our firm commitment to check nuclear proliferation and prevent the military use of nuclear technology, it will never be wise to ignore the activities of countries, which are obviously hostile to us, and the increasing threats to Pakistan. The whole world knows that India is not willing to abandon its nuclear ambitions and it is insisting that the issue should be viewed in a global and greater regional perspective. If this is so, then it should be fair and justifiable on the same grounds for Pakistan to develop nuclear technology. If an aggressive country in our neighborhood, like India, is stockpiling atom bombs, missiles, submarines and other deadly weapons, then why should we hesitate to take the necessary steps for our defense and security? Almost all the responsible quarters are unanimous on Pakistan's nuclear program. They observe that while primarily opposing the use of nuclear technology for military purposes and continuing our sincere efforts to prevent the world from being threatened by a nuclear disaster, we should simultaneously keep a vigilant eye on the production of destructive nuclear weapons which can be used any time against us. As any other responsible and realistic Pakistani, Gen Arif has stated in categorical terms that India maintains an earnest desire to become a super power and is striving to establish its hegemony on the entire region, including the Indian Ocean. India is not willing to pay heed to anyone in the world when it comes to the question of its nuclear or military preparations. Moreover, India's attitude toward its neighbors is not so friendly that one can remain complacent and refrain from expressing concern. Pakistan, and all of India's other neighbors, at one stage or another, have been the victims of its aggression. Indian maneuvers are still continuing to make her neighbors as obedient puppets. Indian policy planners consider Pakistan as the biggest hurdle on its way, and as Gen Arif categorically said: India considers Pakistan as its number one enemy.

If we adopt an apologetic attitude on every issue and ignore the tremendous threat being faced by the country's defense, despite having been aware of such solid and evident facts and despite repeatedly being the victim of Indian aggression, and allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by hollow words of peace and friendship by Indian rulers, or if we remain fearful of a hypothetical worldwide condemnation, then we will obviously be doing nothing but pushing ourselves to the pit of destruction. What is needed in the given situation is that the whole nation should be kept ready to the fullest extent for the country's defense. An atmosphere of national unity and unanimity should be created at every level. Political differences should never be allowed at any stage to prevail over national interests. And a realistic approach with full determination and confidence should be adopted in case of defense preparations by abandoning the apologetic attitude. Primary efforts should be made to meet the country's defense and security requirements in accordance with the suggestions given by Gen Arif and other defense experts. It is tantamount to nothing but national suicide to expect peace and security from India after it becomes a formidable nuclear

power—the India which did not hesitate to dismember our country even when it did not have nuclear capability.

Development of Nuclear Power Plants Approved

BK1808010089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1912 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Aug 17 (AFP)—Pakistan has approved a five-year programme aimed at developing the capability to design and manufacture its own nuclear power plants, the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has said.

Munir Ahmed Khan said late Wednesday that the programme was needed to ensure that Pakistan would have control over its own energy resources.

Mr Munir, speaking to reporters after a regular meeting of the commission, said that Pakistan had for a long time been denied nuclear technology by advanced countries.

"Hopefully that situation had changed," he said, adding that during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to France last month, negotiations on the purchase of a 900-megawatt nuclear power house took "fairly concrete shape."

He said he hoped that by the time President Francois Mitterand of France visited Pakistan early next year, the deal would be finalised.

Nuclear power was an absolute necessity for Pakistan, which will need an additional 20,000 megawatts of electricity over the next decade, Mr Munir said. Such a supply could only come from nuclear power, he added.

Ziaul Haq's Son Says Bhutto Pursuing 'Revenge'

BK2808004289 Hong Kong AFP in English 2000 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 27 (AFP)—The eldest son of late Pakistan President Mohammed Ziaul Haq told an opposition rally here late Sunday that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government was "pursuing a policy of revenge."

Addressing tens of thousands of supporters of the conservative Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), Ijaul Haq also predicted that Ms Bhutto's government would "very soon" fall.

He said former military Governor Fazle Haq, who was arrested July 22 in connection with the murder here last August of Shiite leader Arif Hussain Al-hussaini, was being "victimised" because "he was just a friend of my father".

General Fazle Haq, an IJI MP [Member of Parliament], was the governor of the North West Frontier Province for seven years under President Ziaul Haq.

The Peshawar rally was organized as another show of strength by the opposition following the massive rally attended by 100,000 people on August 17 in Islamabad to mark the first anniversary of the death of General Ziaul Haq.

IJI president, Nawaz Sharif, arrived with Mr Ijaz to address the rally at the head of a motorcade from Rawalpindi, 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of here.

Mr Nawaz Sharif, who is also chief minister of Punjab Province, briefly stopped in the town of Hasan Abdal on his way to the rally and accused the government of being "incompetent to run the affairs of the state," saying it was "ruining" the country's economy and "jeopardizing the national interests."

No incidents were reported at the rally where the police were present in force.

Search for Missing Plane Continues; No Progress

BK2808112889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The onsearch operations for the missing PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] Fokker continued today, but without any success so far. According to PIA sources, rain during morning and thick clouds in the afternoon hovering over the northern areas prevented air operations to search the missing aircraft. Efforts were made to dispatch two sorties of C-130 aircraft—one in the morning and one in the afternoon. However, these planes returned to Islamabad due to bad weather.

Cabinet Discusses Missing Plane

BK2808162489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, who presided over the federal cabinet session in Islamabad today, urged for continuing full efforts in connection with the search for the missing Pakistani International Airline plane until the situation becomes clear. The prime minister apprised the cabinet of the efforts made so far in this regard. The cabinet expressed deep concern about the safety of the passengers and hearty sympathy with the families of the passengers and the members of the crew.

The federal secretary for information and broadcasting, Rashid Latif, briefed newsmen on the cabinet proceedings. He said the session was apprised of the hardships encountered in the aerial search of the missing plane due to constant dense clouds.

The minister of state for defense, retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, told the cabinet that currently a special services group of the Pakistani Army is engaged in the ground search operations, where the plane could possibly have been within 7 minutes after takeoff. The Indian Army, Air Force, and civil authorities are also cooperating in searching the missing plane. He said the Indian Government is very much cooperating in connection with searching the missing plane in its territory.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia 29 Aug

BK2908111989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, left Islamabad today for Saudi Arabia on a 2-day official visit. During his stay there, he is scheduled to hold talks with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on bilateral relations and regional issues. From Saudi Arabia, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will proceed to Belgrade to attend the ministerial meeting being held there in preparation of the nonaligned summit.

DAWN on Khan-Bhutto 'Wrangle' Over Sirohey

BK1608162789 Karachi DAWN in English 11 Aug 89 p 1

[By Ayaz Amir in "News Analysis" column]

[Text] Islamabad—The high-level wrangle over Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey's tenure as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee is the latest in a series of small incidents which have gradually led to the build-up of tension between the Presidency and the Prime Minister's Office and frayed the delicate relationship between them.

To quote a few examples, on the occasion of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's recent one-day trip to Islamabad, President Ghulam Ishaq's famous remark that India should dispel the impression that it was seeking hegemony in South Asia struck a discordant note with the way the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Government was trying to play up the visit. Asked at the joint Press conference the next morning to comment on the President's statement Ms Bhutto looked visibly flustered, then after consulting Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, lamely answered that since she had not read it she could not say anything about it. No wonder Ms Bhutto has faced domestic flak for being "soft" on India while President Ghulam Ishaq has been widely praised for his more cautious approach.

On July 23 the President delivered an important speech in Quetta in which he poured cold water over demands voiced elsewhere by the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] chief Altaf Hussain and the Baluchistan Chief Minister Akbar Bugti that he should use his powers to redress the grievances of the various provinces. But at the same time, he urged all political parties to rise above petty considerations and work for the larger good of the country. "No political expediency was higher than national interests and no manifesto holier than national integrity," he said on the occasion. If these remarks were relevant and timely given the uncertian political situation in the country, the Federal Government gave few signs of its appreciation at a Cabinet meeting. A couple of days later, the President's speech was reportedly discussed threadbare, and afterwards, Information Minister Javed Jabbar, briefing newsmen, said that the Cabinet was concerned about attempts to question Federal authority and had resovled not to tolerate any interference in the responsibilities assigned to it by the Constitution.

But these tensions simmering below the surface have now come into the open with the dispute over Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey's tenure as Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee. It started with a news item in an Urdu newspaper which, quoting sources close to the Federal Government said that a decision had been taken to retire the Chairman of the Committee on Aug 14, and that a new chairman would be appointed by the President in consultation with the Prime Minister. The very next day came a rejoinder from the Presidency. It said that it was the sole prerogative of the President to appoint the service chiefs, that the tenure of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs Committee was for three years and that since Admiral Sirohey had been appointed to that post only last year, he was not due to retire till 1991.

The official news agency APP did not creed this statement but after its publication in a couple of newspapers, the capital was awash with rumours of serious differences between the President and the Prime Minister. A Cabinet meeting the Prime Minister was supposed to chair in Peshawar on August 7 was postponed.

An engineering seminar she was supposed to inaugurate on August 8 was inaugurated instead by Begum [Nusrat] Bhutto, who explained that the Prime Minister at that moment was attending a high-level meeting concerning "the security of our country and democracy," a remark which only added to the impression of a crisis being played out behind the scenes.

Although no one has said it in so many words, the PPP's stand in this affair, as pieced together from hints here and there, is that Admiral Sirohey's term has to be counted from the date he was made an Admiral, which was three years ago, and not from the time he was made Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad or Islamic Democratic Alliance] people say that the PPP's aims are sinister. It wanted to kick Gen Aslam Beg into the vacant slot of Chairman so that it could appoint someone else as the Army chief.

In any event, the impression has gained ground these last few days of a breakdown of normal channels of communication between the two highest offices in the land. At the engineering seminar referred to earlier, Begum Bhutto said that instead of the Prime Minister, the President would be visiting the member countries of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] in pursuance of Pakistan's obligations as the current head of the organisation. Sources in the Presidency immediately informed the Press that the President had no intention of undertaking such a tour. In passing, it might be mentioned that the Prime Minister has been

criticised for spending so much time abroad when her Government was bedevilled by serious problems at home.

As matters stand, there is every likelihood that the President's word will ultimately prevail in the matter of Admiral Sirohey's tenure. After all, he has the Constitution and the charter of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee on his side. But it can only add to the PPP's discomfiture which is already hemmed in by problems on all sides—hostility in Punjab and Baluchistan, attempts at destabilisation in the Frontier and sustained unrest in Sindh. The last thing it should have sought in the circumstances was a conflict with the President who was being praised not long ago for the constructive role he had played in the restoration of democracy. But this exactly is what has come about with the President and Prime Minister visibly at loggerheads with each other.

What is the explanation of these accumulated troubles? Some the PPP inherited when it came to power, others it has created for itself. Apart from the passage of the Budget which was managed with some dexterity, other political problems have been grossly mishandled. The result of this is scarcely surprising. Nine months ago, the Opposition was on the defensive, now it is on the warpath emboldened by the PPP's successive mistakes.

But the PPP, far from questioning its performance, seeks refuge behind the notion that it is a victim of gigantic conspiracy. Sometime ago it had made a villain of the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence, Military Intelligence Wing—FBIS] thinking that if only Gen Hamid Gul [former ISI chief] would go from there, its troubles would disappear. But they have only increased since his departure. Is the latest bogey the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee? If only the PPP Government would realise that its real enemy is its own performance. If it masters that, it will find its burden becoming lighter to an astonishing degree.

Sri Lanka

32 Killed; Opposition Wants New Government

BK2708032089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 32 persons have been killed in continuing extremist violence. Agency reports quoting military officials say that at least 20 Sinhalese were shot dead in Tirappane village, 165 km northeast of Colombo, on Friday night [25 August]. They are reported to be victims of retaliatory killing by the security forces. Five persons, including three policemen, were killed when JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists blew up a police vehicle with a land mine in the northwestern part of the island.

Meanwhile, five opposition parties in Sri Lanka have demanded formation of an all-party provisional government as a means to end the current spate of violence. In a joint statement issued in Colombo, they also demanded scrapping of the existing presidential form of government, which, they alleged, has totally failed in solving the problems facing the country. The five parties have suggested constitutional changes that will restore the government headed by a prime minister, who will be responsible to parliament. They said these reforms should be followed by fresh elections.

Describing the current situation as the most crucial in the history of the island country, they urged the people to give up violence and help restore peace. The statement was issued by the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, the United Socialist Alliance, and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front].

JVP Strike Closes Shops, Government Offices

JVP Protests 'Genocide'

BK2808050989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0500 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 28 (AFP)—Shops, and offices were shut in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo and immediate suburbs Monday [28 August] as anti-government militants staged a strike to protest military action, officials and residents said.

The Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) had called for a complete shutdown Monday to protest what it calls genocide by security forces and the presence of Indian troops on the island republic.

Officials said almost all government offices could not function Monday as employees failed to turn up even though buses were operated under heavy escort by armed troops and police.

"There are enough buses on the road. But there are no people to get into them," a senior government official said.

Residents said shops were closed in Colombo's commercial hubs of Pettah and Fort while factories and private offices too remained shut.

"Everything is closed here. Only a few people were seen on the road. It is like on a holiday," a resident in Maharagama, near here said by telephone.

Officials said security forces had detained both private and state-owned buses with their drivers overnight to ensure normal transports services Monday.

Troops armed with emergency powers to shoot on sight intensified checks at entry points to Colombo, officials said.

In posters and leaflets distributed here clandestinely, the Sinhalese militant group called for the protest against killings by local security forces and to press its demand

for a withdrawal of some 42,000 Indian troops now deployed in the island's north-east.

Police and troops have stepped up anti-rebel operations in the past week and have detained thousands of suspects. Conservative estimates show an average of 40 deaths in politically motivated violence across Sri Lanka during this period.

The JVP is leading a violent campaign against President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government and is militantly opposed to a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord under which New Delhi sent its troops to the island's Tamil-populated north-east.

In 1971, the JVP led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

Further on Strike

BK2808130489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1247 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 28 (AFP)—Anti-government Sinhalese rebels brought normal life to a virtual standstill Monday as continuing political violence across Sri Lanka claimed 43 more lives, officials and residents said.

Shops, banks, the main sea port here and offices in more than two thirds of the country remained shut in response to the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) call to protest what it said was genocide by local troops and the Indian military presence.

The violently anti-government JVP in clandestinely issued posters and leaflets has said their latest strike is to protest killings by security forces, to demand the immediate withdrawal of Indian troops, and the resignation of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Residents said soldiers went from shop to shop in Colombo breaking padlocks and shuttered doors using heavy shears and hammers.

"We were told (by soldiers) that if we close, they will come again and break (them) open," the owner of a tailoring shop in Colombo said.

Three bombs exploded in the capital early Monday in an apparent attempt to scare away people, military officials said. One blast was within half a kilometer from the high security residence of former President Junius Jayewardene, officials said.

The two main privately-owned newspaper offices were shut and they were not bringing out their SUN and THE ISLAND dailies Tuesday, journalists said.

Officials said almost all government offices could not function Monday as employees failed to turn up even though some buses operated under heavy armed escort by troops and police.

"There are enough buses on the road. But no passengers," a senior government official said. He later closed his office and went home.

Political analysts said the strike was near total despite military action to maintain essential services. The JVP has carried out reprisal attacks, including death, on strike breakers in the past.

In another development, Mr Premadasa appointed senior military and police personnel as immigration and customs officials under emergency regulations, a government statement said Monday.

It gave no reason for the move, but official sources said it was probably a precautionary measure to ensure the functioning of the international airport and sea ports in the country. The Colombo international airport was unaffected by Monday's strike.

In a separate statement the government said that since Sunday 255 people had been arrested by security forces who operate with sweeping emergency powers which include shoot on sight orders.

In addition to the total shut down Monday, which included a ban on private transport, the JVP has called for a work stoppage till Friday. The group has asked employees to report for duty but to refuse to work from Tuesday through Friday.

The radical group is leading a violent campaign against President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government and is militantly opposed to a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord under which New Delhi has some 42,000 troops in the island's tamil-populated northeast.

The JVP wants the Indians sent back and all laws enacted in line with the 1987 treaty abrogated.

Reports from the Tamil region, which is under Indian military control, said the area was unaffected by the JVP strike.

2d Day of Strike

BK2908090289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0846 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 29 (AFP)—Almost all government offices and banks remained shut as a rebel sponsored work stoppage continued for the second straight day Tuesday [29 August] despite government threats to cut strikers' salaries, officials said.

The anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) which staged a strike Monday bringing normal life to a standstill, had asked employees to report for duty but not to work Tuesday through Friday.

Both foreign and local banks were closed while telecommunication, electricity and dock workers stayed away, officials said. However, shops were open and private vehicles were on the road.

"The government condemns in no uncertain terms the activities of subversive elements who have instilled fear in law-abiding people with death threats.

"In view of the sufferings of the masses and the adverse effect on the economy, the government has decided not to pay wages to all those who absent themselves from work with immediate effect," a government statement said Tuesday.

However, attendance in almost all government institutions fell sharply Tuesday, officials said.

National newspapers were not published on Tuesday as four main newspaper groups, including a state-owned company, did not work on Monday, officials and journalists said.

Reports from southern Galle and Matara Districts said banks and government offices in the region remained closed Tuesday.

Resident in Matara, 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of here, said shops were open there in the morning but by noon they put up shutters as people kept away from the town.

In central Kandy District some banks were open but government offices remained shut, residents contacted by telephone said.

The JVP had called for the strike to protest what it calls genocide by local security forces and the presence of Indian troops in the island's Tamil-populated northeast.

Suspected JVP gunmen shot dead a former MP [member of Parliament] of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party (UNP) at her home in southern Karandeniya Town Tuesday, officials said.

The killing came as unidentified gunmen shot dead a human rights lawyer, Kanchana Abeypala, 27, at his home in Colombo's Narahenpita area late Monday. His father was wounded during the shooting.

A relative said Mr Abeypala had received a death threat immediately after another human rights lawyer, Charitha Lankapura was killed on July 7. Since then he stopped appearing for human rights cases, the relative said.

Students for Human Rights, a grouping of undergraduates, said Mr Abeypala had appeared for over 500 human rights cases in Sri Lankan courts. No one claimed responsibility for the killing.

Military officials here said JVP activists ambushed a military patrol in eastern Giritale Town Monday, killing one soldier.

Another government statement said subversives, an official term for JVP activists, killed seven more civilians while troops killed three subversives in the 24 hours ending Tuesday morning.

On the eve of Monday's JVP action at least 43 people, including a policeman, lost their lives in politically motivated killings across the island, according to government figures.

The JVP is leading a violent campaign to overthrow the government and has been accused of killing over 2,500 rivals in the past two years.

The group is militantly opposed to the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign and under which India has some 42,000 troops in the northeast.

Military Convoy Ambushed by LTTE; Two Killed

BK2708125489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] A Sri Lankan Government communique issued in Colombo today said that 12 unidentified dead bodies have been found in Kandy police area in the Uva Province.

One Buddhist monk was taken out of a temple and shot dead by extremists.

In another incident, a convoy of military vehicles was ambushed by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] at Oddusuddan in Vavuniya District. Two Sri Lankan police personnel were killed and six injured in the incident. One PKF [Peacekeeping Force] personnel, who was also injured, later succumbed to his injuries.

Meanwhile, another PKF contingent of 500 men returned to Madras from Sri Lanka this morning.

7 LTTE Militants, 4 Indians Killed in Clash

BK2808164489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] In the northeast [of Sri Lanka], seven LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants were killed in separate encounters with the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force]. According to a spokesman of the Indian High Commission in Colombo this evening five LTTE militants were killed and five injured in a clash with the IPKF in Mullaitivu District today. Three IPKF personnel died and one was injured in the incident.

In another encounter in Vavuniya District two LTTE men and 1 IPKF personnel were killed.

EPRLF Accuses Colombo of Supporting Rivals

BK2508061589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0530 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Aug 25 (AFP)—A Tamil political party ruling Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province has accused Colombo of backing its rivals in an attempt to destabilise its provincial government, newspapers reported Friday [25 August].

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said the Sri Lankan Government had provided arms and ammunition to the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) and logistical support to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Both the LTTE and the EROS are known to oppose the EPRLF-controlled provincial government in power in the Tamil-majority Northeast, where India has more than 42,000 troops under a 1987 bilateral peace accord.

The EPRLF statement, issued in the southern Indian city of Madras on Thursday and reported by the INDIAN EXPRESS and other newspapers, said Colombo "has struck an alliance with the EROS and LTTE to destabilise the Northeast provincial government."

It said the Sri Lankan Government gave 75 AK-47 assault rifles and 10,000 rounds of ammunition to EROS "and a like quantity of weapons" to two members of the group last month. [sentence as received] The AK-47 is widely used by Tamil guerrillas.

The Sri Lankan Army was similarly providing transport to guerrillas of the LTTE, which has been waging a bloody bush war against Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka since October 1987, it added.

"This newly formed nexus between LTTE and EROS and the (Sri) Lankan regime is to the detriment of peace and democracy," the statement said.

There was no immediate reaction from the LTTE, which has representatives in Colombo, or the EROS, which maintains offices in both Colombo and Madras. [passage omitted]

India Urged To Come to Agreement With LTTE

BK2808140089 Colombo SUN in English 17 Aug 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Terminate Hostility"]

[Text] As the Sri Lankan Government desperately seeks a new peace that would help accelerate the Indian troop withdrawal the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] are fighting one of the bitterest fights in north Lanka.

One British daily has described the alleged Indian onslaught in Velvettiturai as India's "My Lai". The report was evidently based on LTTE sources.

Whether these claims are exaggerations or not the fact remains that a bitter confrontation is on right now in this vulnerable area. The government has reportedly sought clarification from India.

Ironically the renewed fighting had coincided with the new peace efforts to resolve the ethnic crisis and have the IPKF withdrawn as soon as possible.

The Indian Government seeking a cease-fire from the LTTE has hardly hesitated to intensify the attacks on the Tigers. It has not even bothered to consider the Lankan demand to end this militarist hostility.

Strangely enough the Indian position papers underline the need for a cessation of hostilities. And the ongoing conflict seems to indicate that New Delhi wants it from the Tigers as a precondition for peace. But the Tigers have gone on record in demanding it first from India. Therein lies the catch 22 situation which Sri Lanka will find rather impossible in resolving.

Perhaps, the protagonists themselves know how hopeless the situation is and they do not seem to care. For the present fiasco seems to satisfy their self-centred objectives as Sri Lanka bleeds to death.

The government and its able negotiators must endeavour to settle the acrimonious crisis between India and the LTTE if the peace deal must succeed. As long as their war of attrition continues the withdrawal of Indian troops may not be completely accomplished.

This would mean residual catastrophe as anti-government rebels will continue their own political and military onslaughts using the Indian presence as a target of confrontation.

Now that the government has made some effective contacts with the LTTE hierarchy it must persuade the Tigers to enter the political mainstream while making the Indian leaders accept their bona fides.

If this is achieved the problems facing the nation will soon disappear.

It is indeed a Herculean task but not a mission impossible if the right and determined candidates are picked to formulate a new peace offer and convince the feuding parties of its credibility.

India is committing the same mistake that Sri Lanka made in northeast Lanka against the Tiger guerrillas. If it could not take these rebels during the past two years despite heavy military onslaughts it may probably not do so before its own time frame concludes in February. Besides the LTTE seems to have rejuvenated its firepower and cadres.

Already the IPKF stands demoralised with over one thousand of its cadres slain and three times more wounded in battles.

A better way to peace and normality without jeopardising its own image would be for India to end the hostilities on mutually acceptable parameters with the LTTE and also save itself the misfortune of having a "new Lebanon" in its own frontyard.

National Unity Needed To Hasten Indian Pullout

BK2808120989 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 18 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Sounding the Retreat?"]

[Text] As military advances begin with the single step of a soldier across a frontier, so apparently are military withdrawals staged—with small groups leaving first.

If the complete removal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] has not still been accomplished, at least the process is now apparently being manoeuvred.

"Not a minute longer than necessary" said Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in a recent speech. There have been token pull-outs which, at least, must be construed as acceding to the view that the Sri Lankan president's authority will ultimately prevail.

General A. S. Kalkat has already gone on record as saying that the ultimate solution to the problem in Sri Lanka is a political one—not a military one. The point of the Indian presence is to create a climate conducive to political initiatives, General Kalkat has added.

There is, of course, more than one opinion that can be advanced of an army that stands by to pressurise a political process—especially when that army is a foreign one: and, especially, when all parties engaged in political initiatives are agreed on the fundamental issue that the foreign presence should be withdrawn.

India has already lost almost 1,000 men, and spent 300 million dollars in an engagement which has lasted over two years, as against the 5 days the disarming was originally expected to take.

There can be little doubt that the Indian Army has taken a severe bashing at the hands of guerrillas. But it would, also, seem that the political factor that India attaches to the IPKF's presence is not merely the concern for a negotiated peace in Sri Lanka. It seems, also, linked with the vagaries of Tamil Nadu politics in the forthcoming general election in the subcontinent. But this is no justification for making Sri Lanka hostage to Indian politics.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, it is sometimes said, derived a lot of political mileage from her somewhat romantic adventure in the Falklands.

Is anyone in India seeking to re-enact this strategy?

Mercifully, India seems committed to the withdrawal of her troops where, earlier, she seemed to prefer to evade that very issue.

While all that could be true, the various political groups and militants in Sri Lanka have their own crucial role to play if they want their soil cleared of foreign forces. But we are not likely to achieve that objective by slaughtering each other; by engaging in violence and ruining our economy.

It will not strengthen our hand against the Indian authorities to be seen to yield to anything approaching anarchy at home.

We are a sovereign power. We must, therefore, prove ourselves worthy of our independence. We must reaffirm our title to national integrity by a common dedication to it; by unity of purpose and by the show of a common stand against any alien intrusion.

Those conditions require peace at home, not violence. That is a truth that ought to attract the attention of every politically-motivated group in this country.

No cover-up for terrorism, no alibis or self-righteousness by any party, can diminish our responsibility in this hour of national need.

The first condition for ensuring the eviction of any foreign army is, surely, that we close our own ranks.